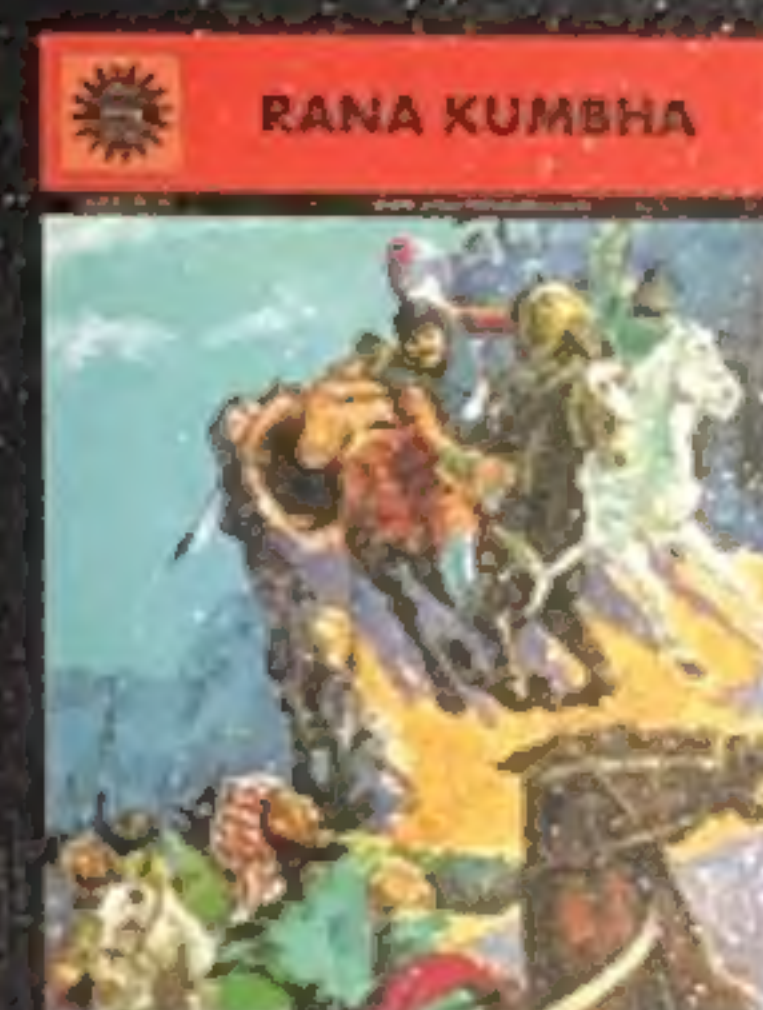
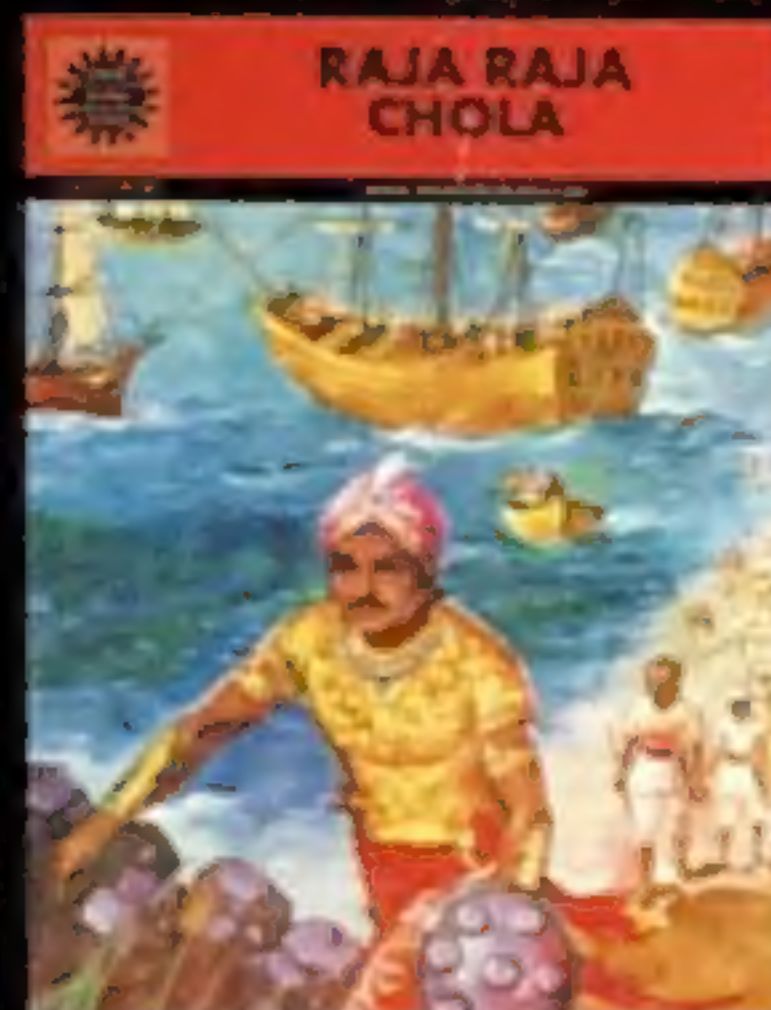


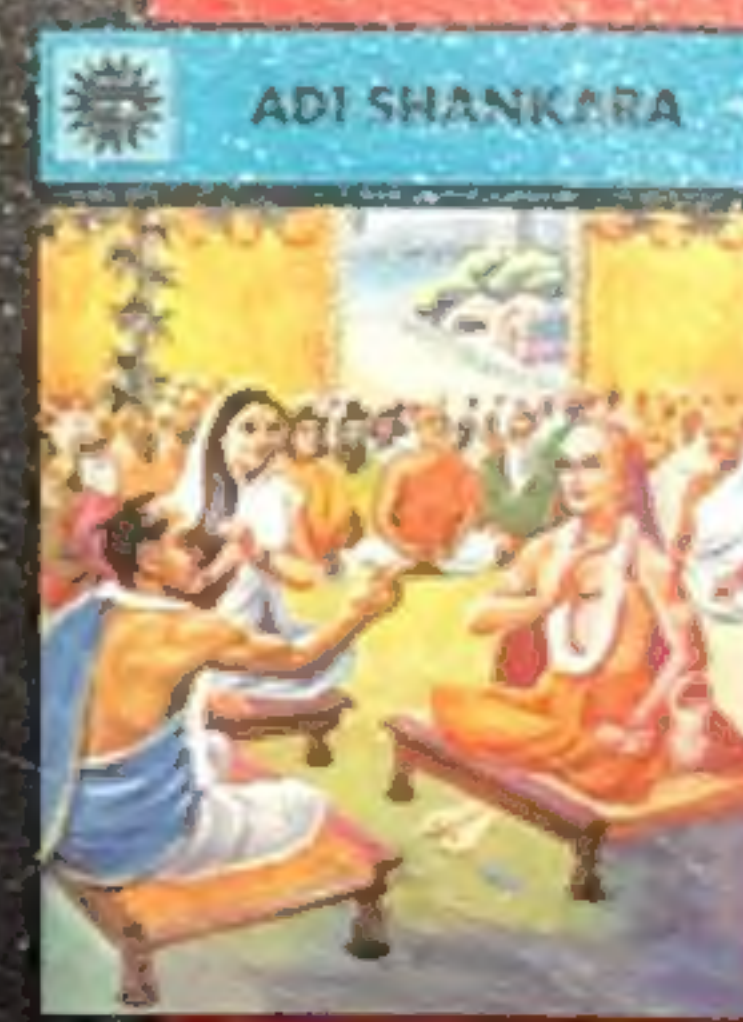
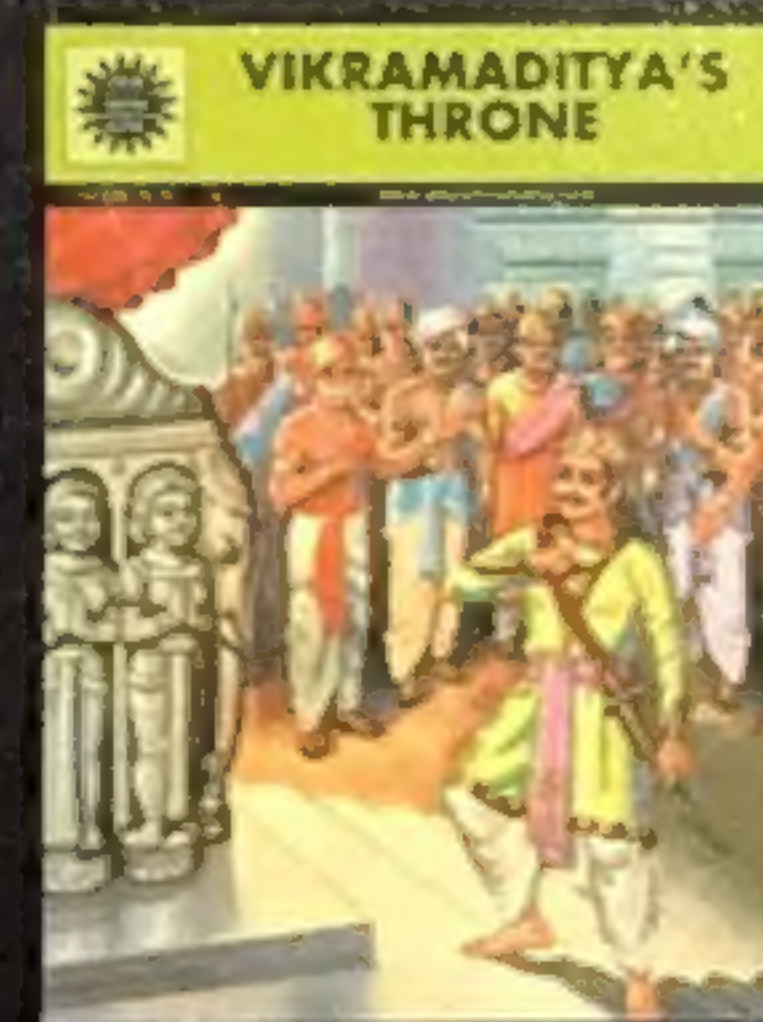
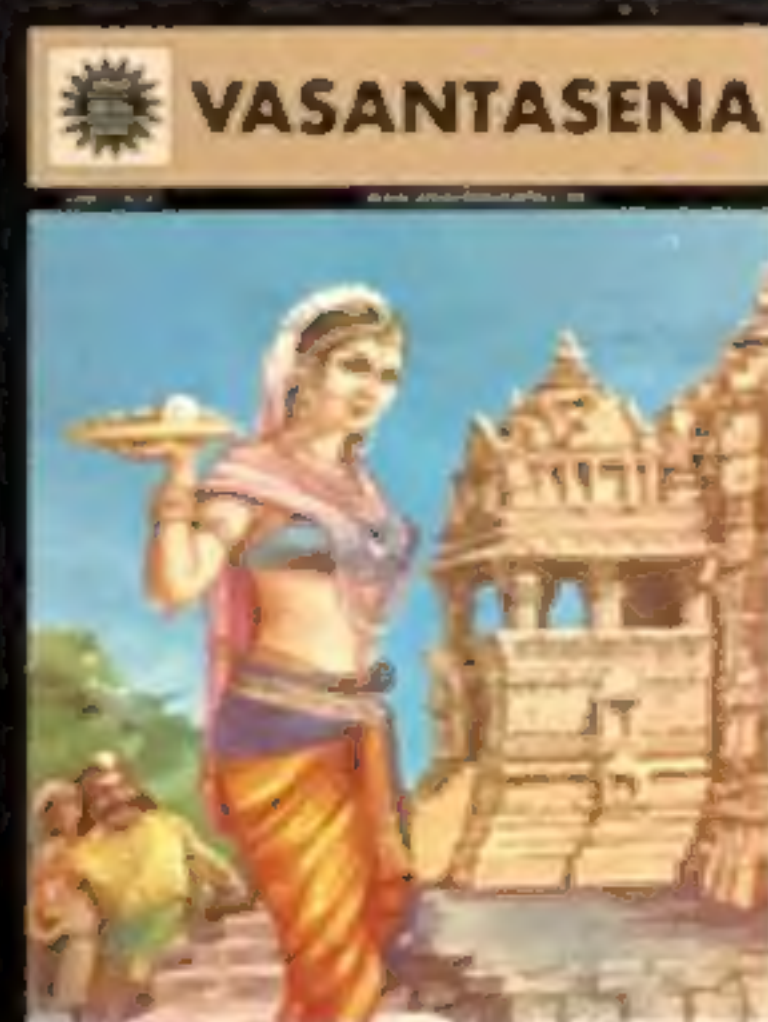
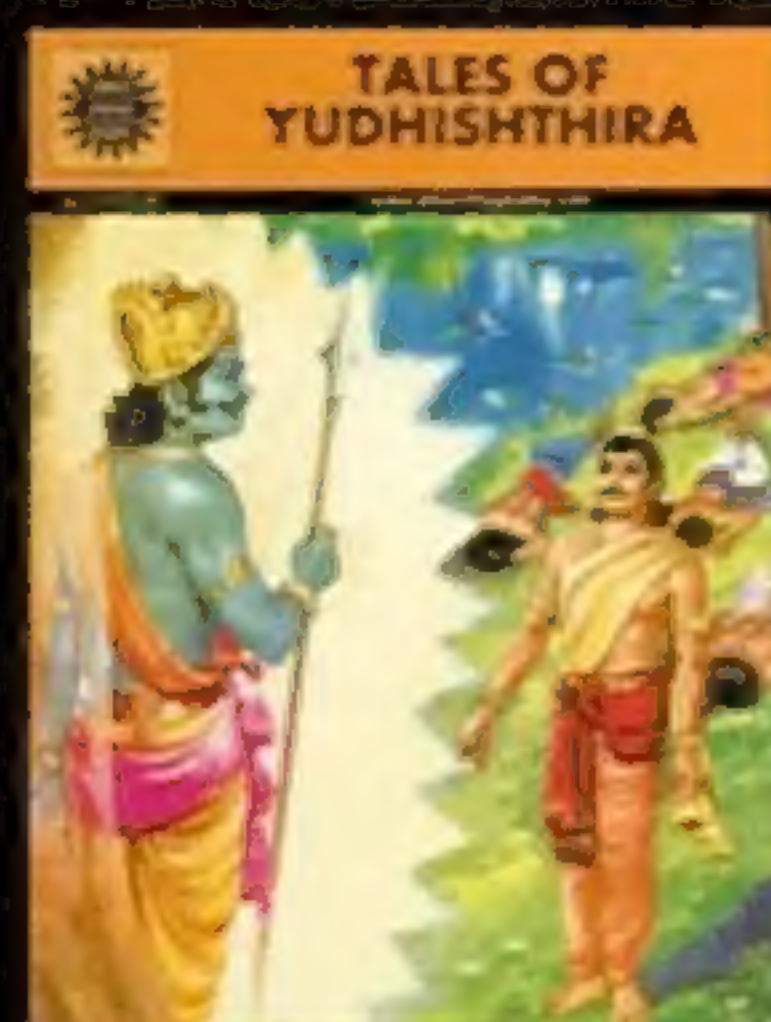
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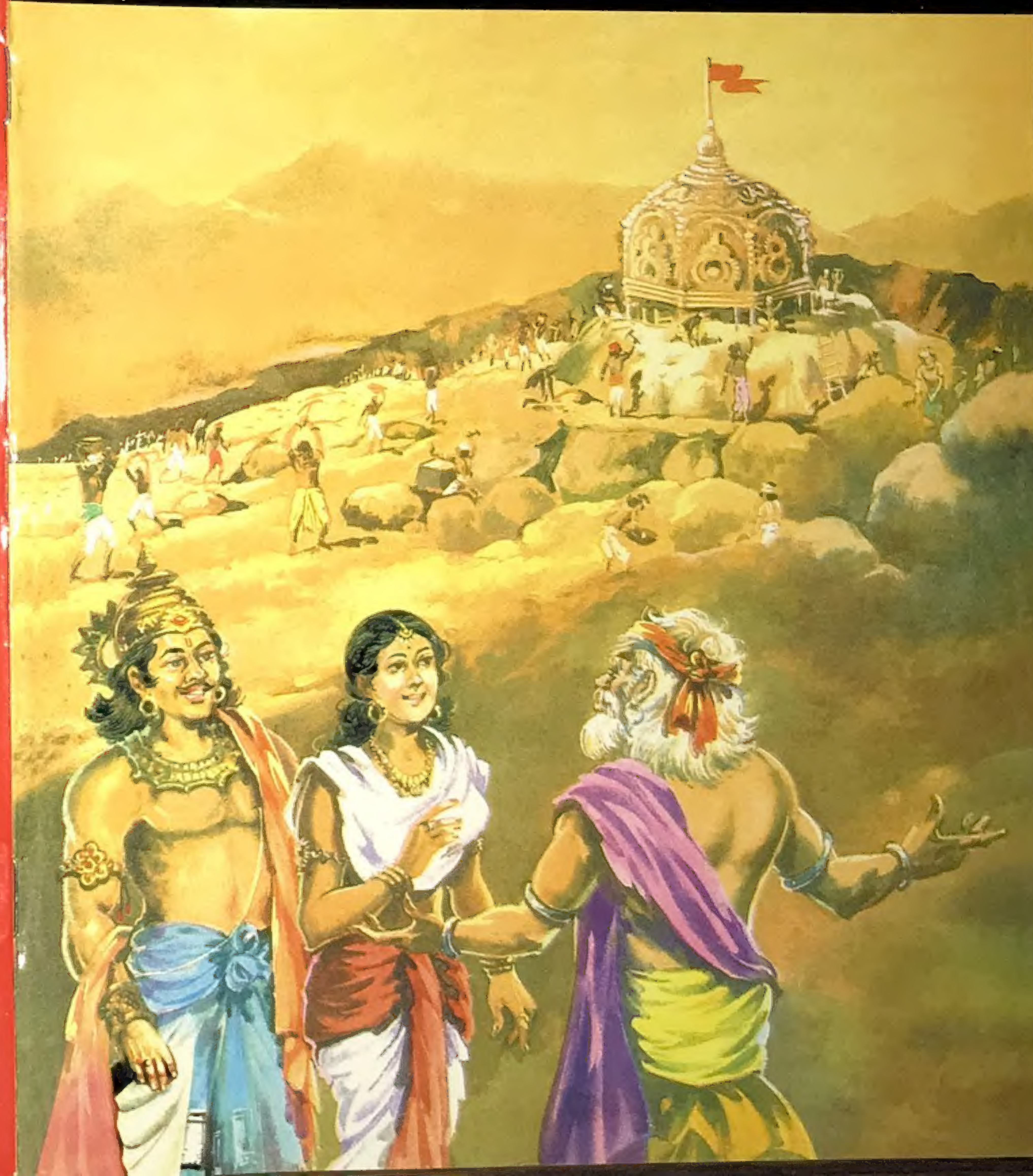
BRAVEHEARTS



# ELLORA CAVES

THE GLORY OF THE RASHTRAKOOTAS

Vol 731 | ₹50



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# The Glory of the Rashtrakootas

IN THE 8TH CENTURY A.D. A NEW EMPIRE WAS ABOUT TO RISE IN CENTRAL INDIA. INDRA, THE RULER OF ELLICHPUR PRINCIPALITY OF THE CHALUKYAN EMPIRE, NURSED AMBITIONS OF EXTENDING THE AREA OF HIS INFLUENCE.

OUR FOREFATHERS EMIGRATED TO ELLICHPUR SEVERAL GENERATIONS AGO AND CARVED A PRINCIPALITY FOR THEMSELVES HERE.



... A KINGDOM SHOULD GROW.



... BUT TO GROW I NEED SUPPORT. I MUST HAVE STRONG ALLIES.



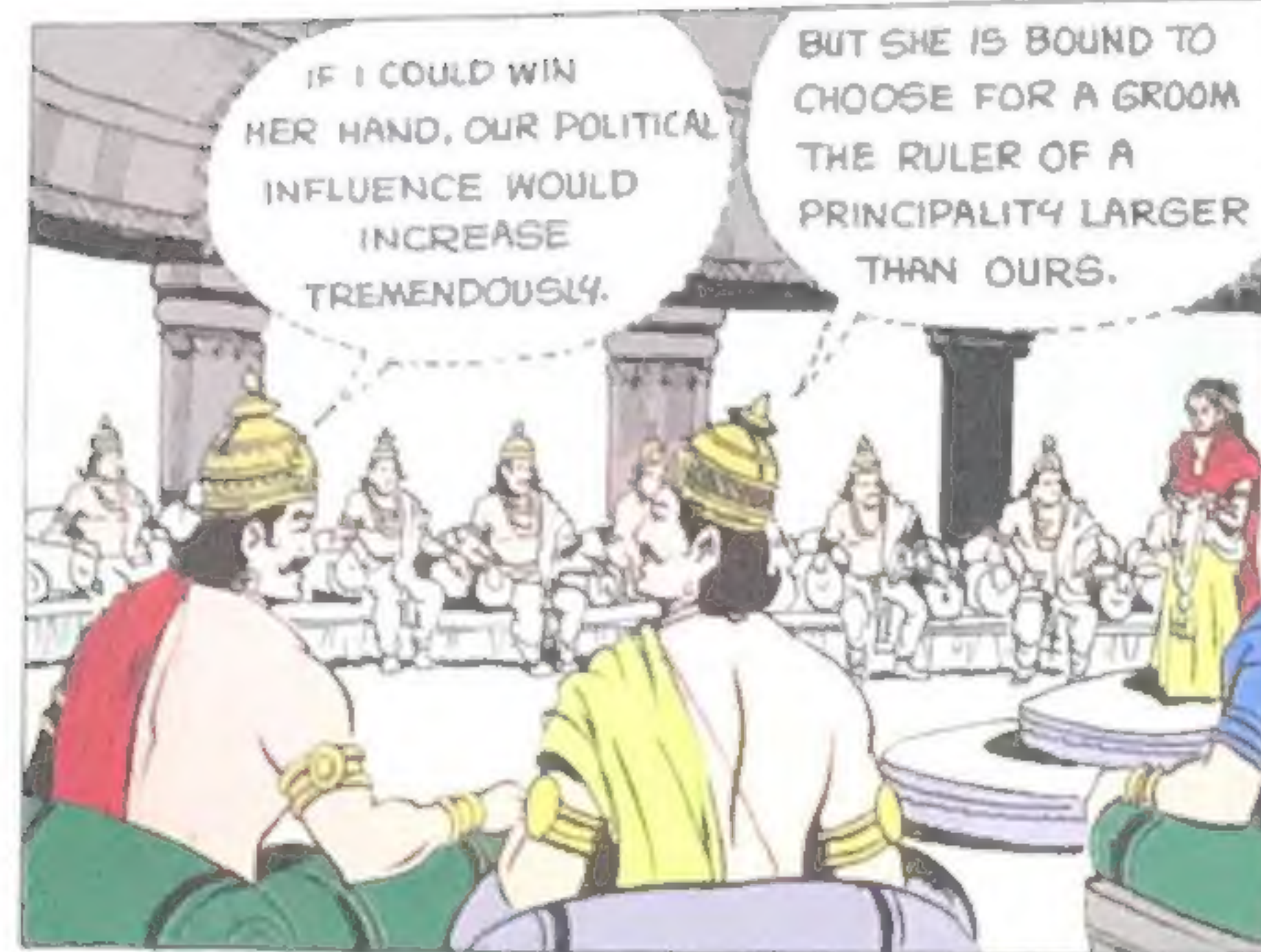
SO WHEN THE WEDDING OF CHALUKYA KING PULAKESHI'S DAUGHTER WAS ARRANGED —

KRISHNA, PRINCESS BHAVANAGA IS GOING TO SELECT HER HUSBAND TODAY.

YES, BROTHER.







KRISHNA NOTICED A STRANGE TINKLE IN INDRA'S EYES —



INDRA WAS PLANNING PRECISELY THAT. SO ON THE DAY OF THE WEDDING —



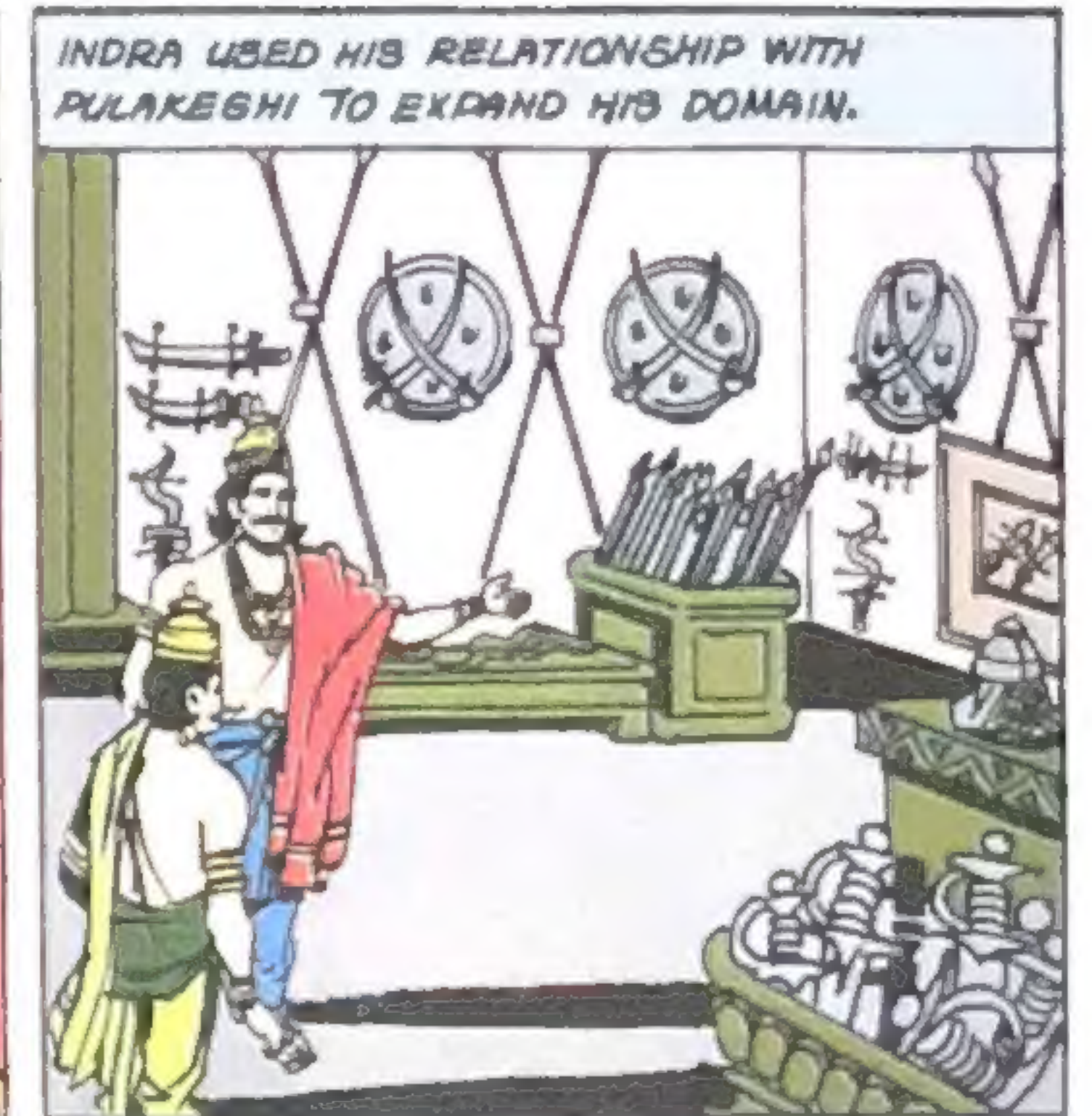
BUT INDRA MANAGED TO REACH ELLICHPUR SAFELY WITH HIS ABDUCTED BRIDE...



... AND THERE HE MARRIED HER.



PULAKESHI WAS VERY ANGRY WITH INDRA. BUT THEIR RELATIONS BECAME FRIENDLY BY THE TIME INDRA AND BHAVANAGA'S FIRST SON DANTIDURGA WAS BORN.

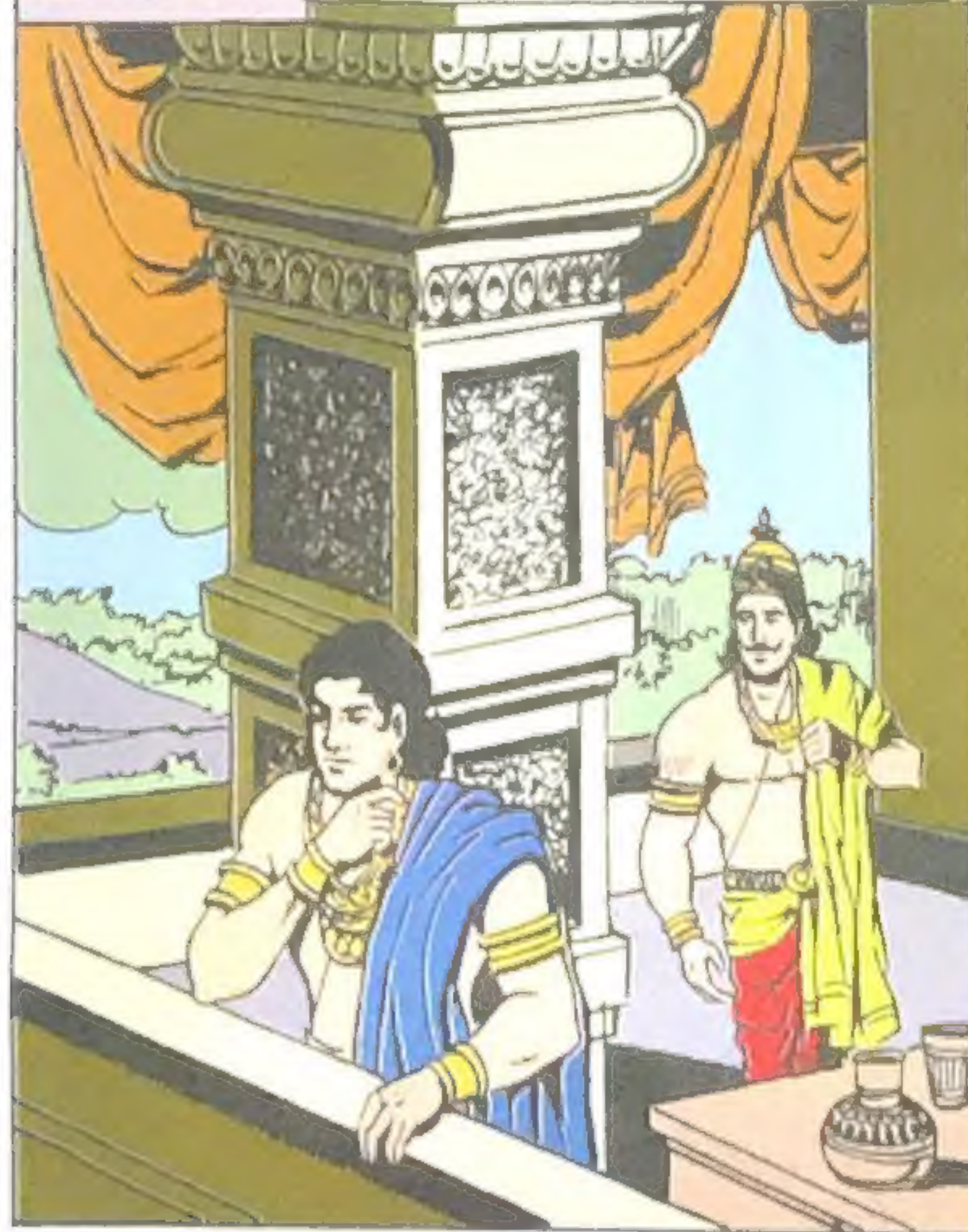


DANTIDURGA GREW UP IN AN ATMOSPHERE CHARGED WITH THE AMBITION AND DRIVE OF HIS FATHER.





IN A.D. 733, INDRA DIED LEAVING BEHIND HIS BROTHER KRISHNA AND HIS ONLY SON DANTIDURGA.



AS A SON  
YOU GRIEVE FOR  
YOUR DEAD  
FATHER...



...THE  
TERRITORY YOU  
HAVE INHERITED—  
TO CONQUER  
OTHER LANDS...



...AS THE  
YUVARAJA, YOU HAVE  
TO STEEL YOURSELF  
AGAINST SORROW SO  
AS TO RULE...



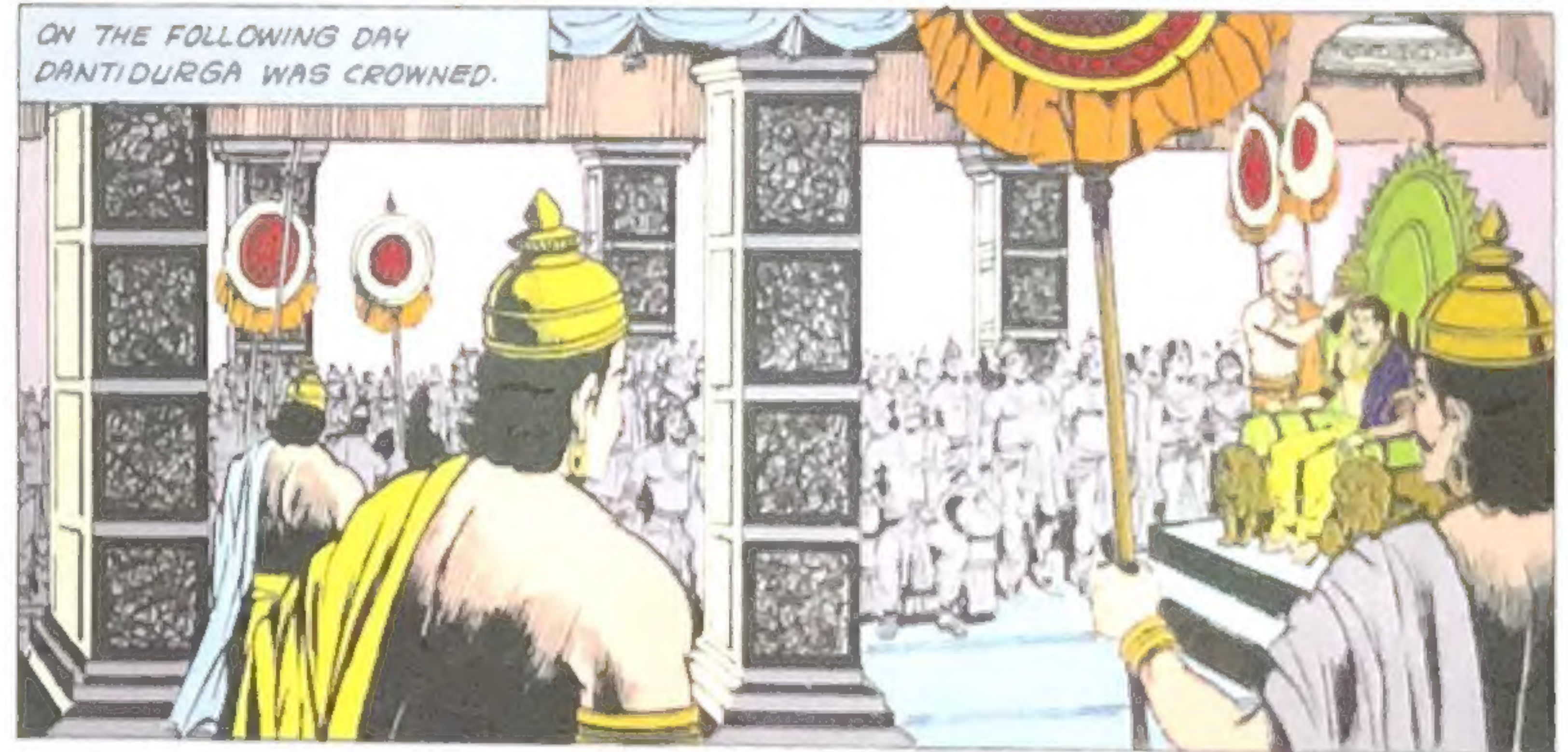
...TO BRING  
GLORY TO THE  
RASHTRAKOOTAS.



YES, UNCLE. I  
WILL STRIVE HARD  
TO BRING GLORY  
TO THE  
RASHTRAKOOTAS.



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY  
DANTIDURGA WAS CROWNED.



RASHTRAKOOTAS WERE STILL  
VASSALS OF THE CHALUKYAN  
EMPEROR.

NOW YOU HAVE TO  
MAKE A JOURNEY TO  
BADAMI AND PAY  
YOUR RESPECT  
TO THE  
EMPEROR.

I WILL,  
UNCLE.

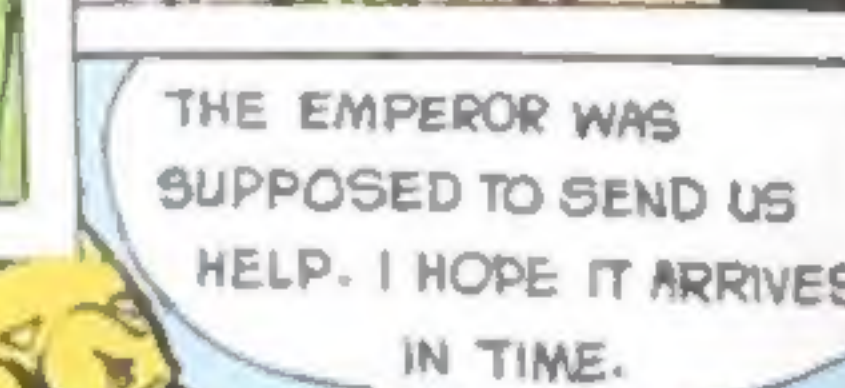
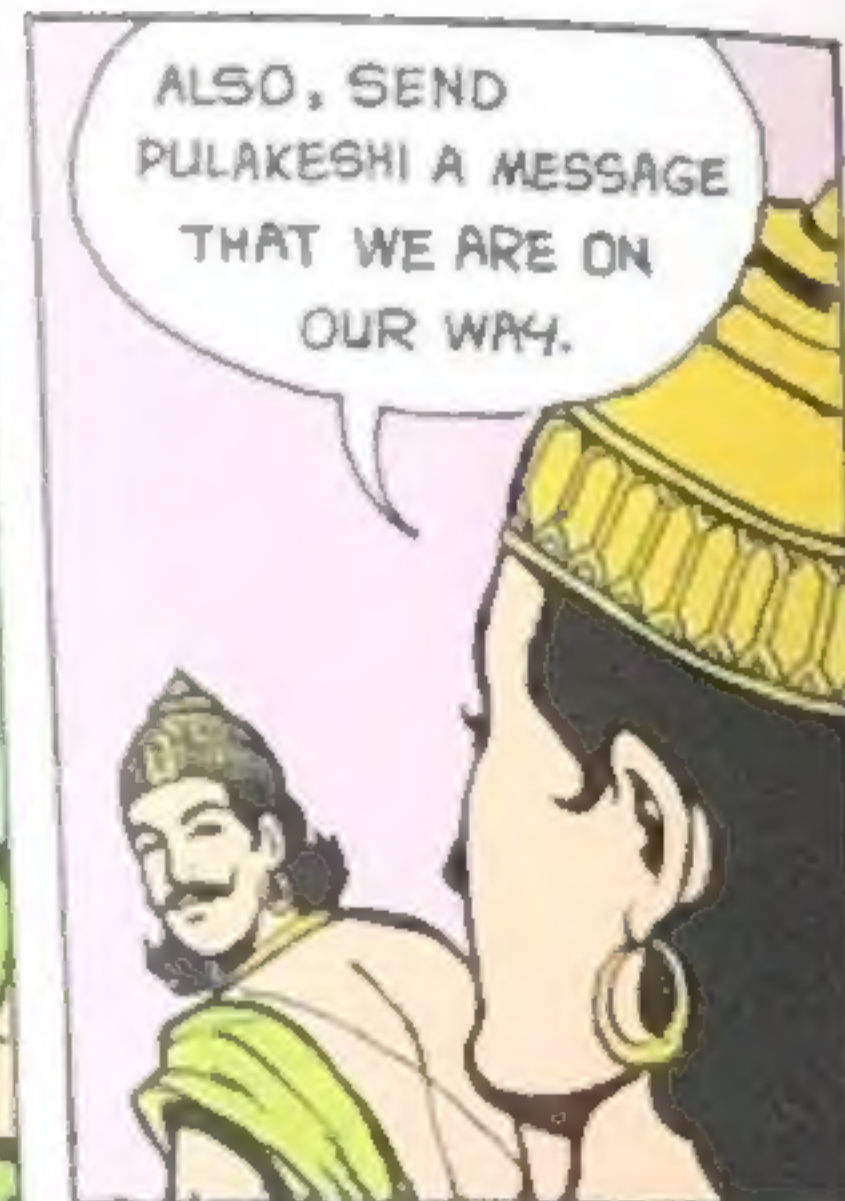


WHEN DANTIDURGA CALLED ON THE EMPEROR, VIKRAMADITYA II —

YOUR LATE FATHER WAS  
LIKE A RIGHT ARM TO ME.  
YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS  
AND GOOD  
WISHES.









THE VALOUR SHOWN BY THE RASHTRAKOOTA KING HAD STRENGTHENED EMPEROR VIKRAMADITYA'S FAITH IN HIM. HE RELIED ON DANTIDURGA TO SOLVE TICKLISH ISSUES —



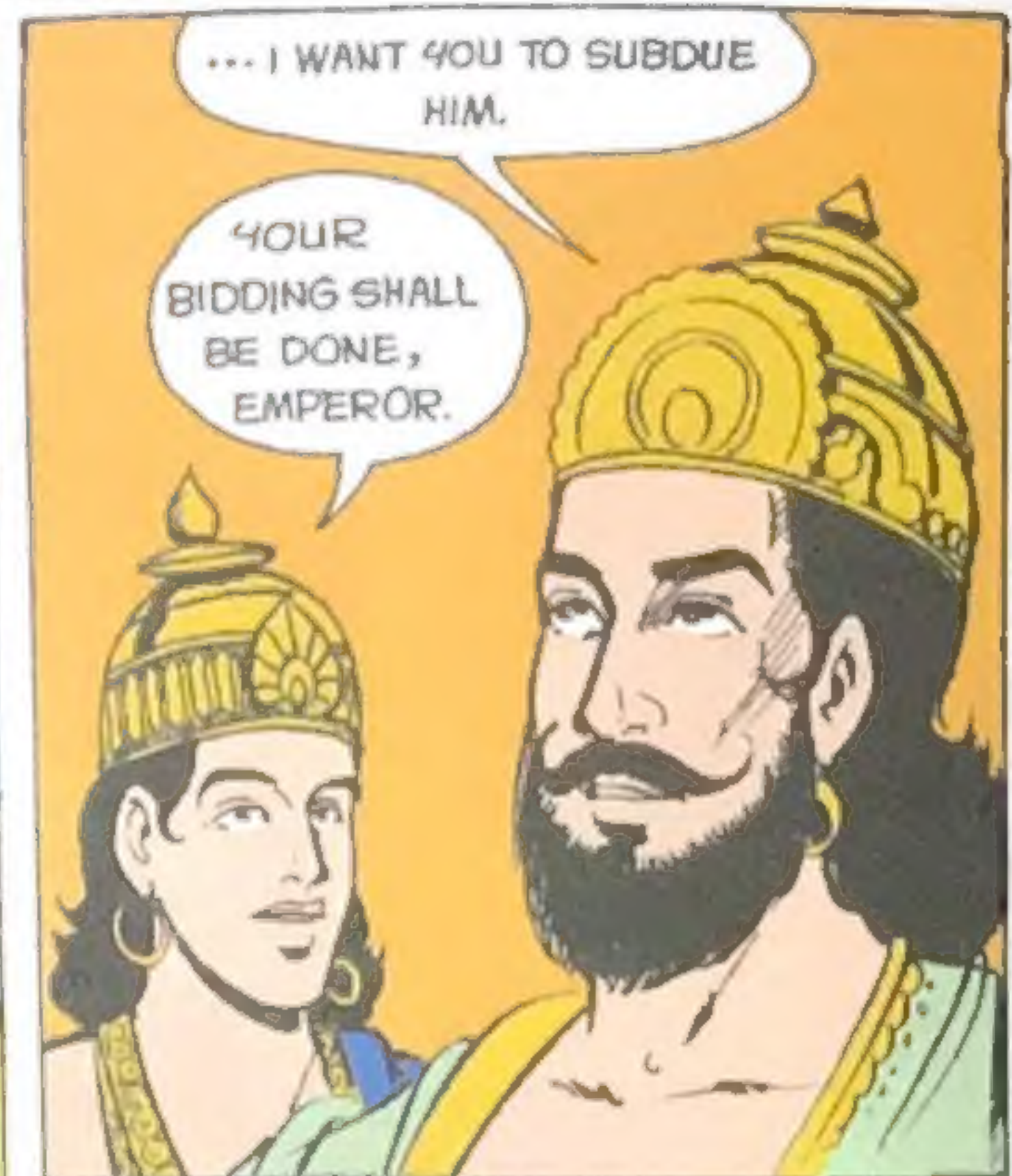
THE PALLAVA NANDIVARMAN TURNED OUT TO BE A POWERFUL ADVERSARY —



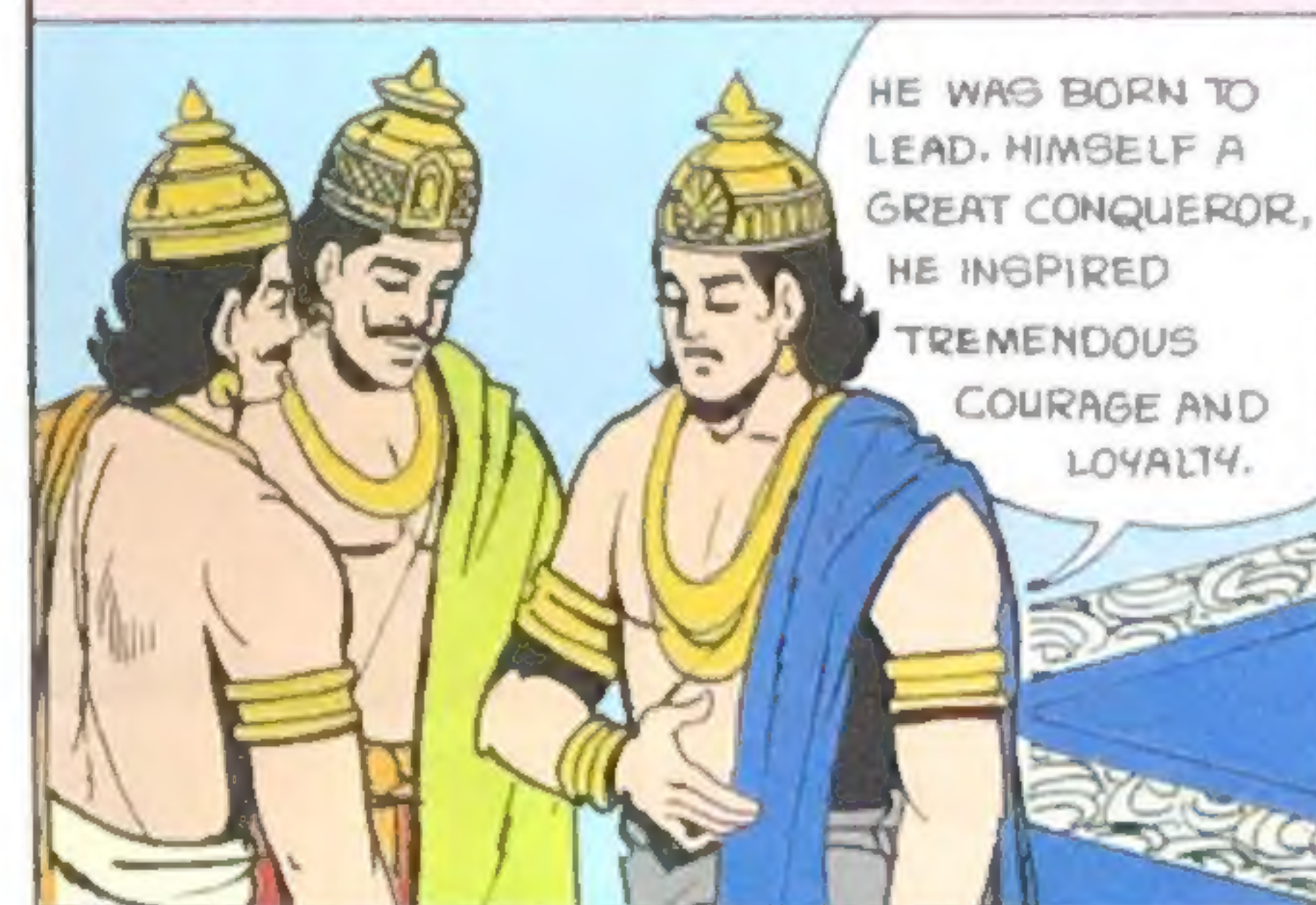
DANTIDURGA PLANNED EACH MOVE WITH GREAT CAUTION.



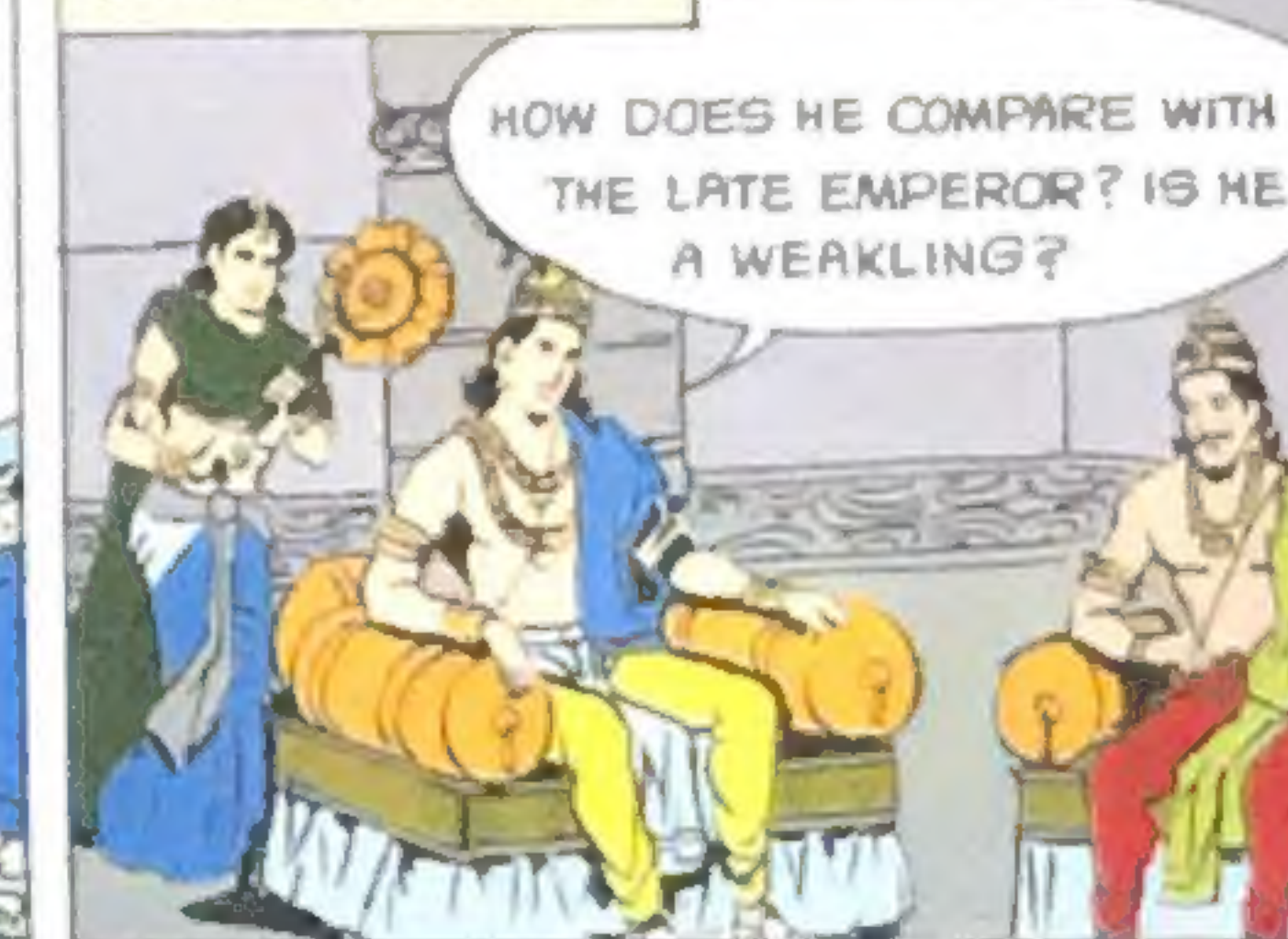
AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE NANDIVARMAN FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT.



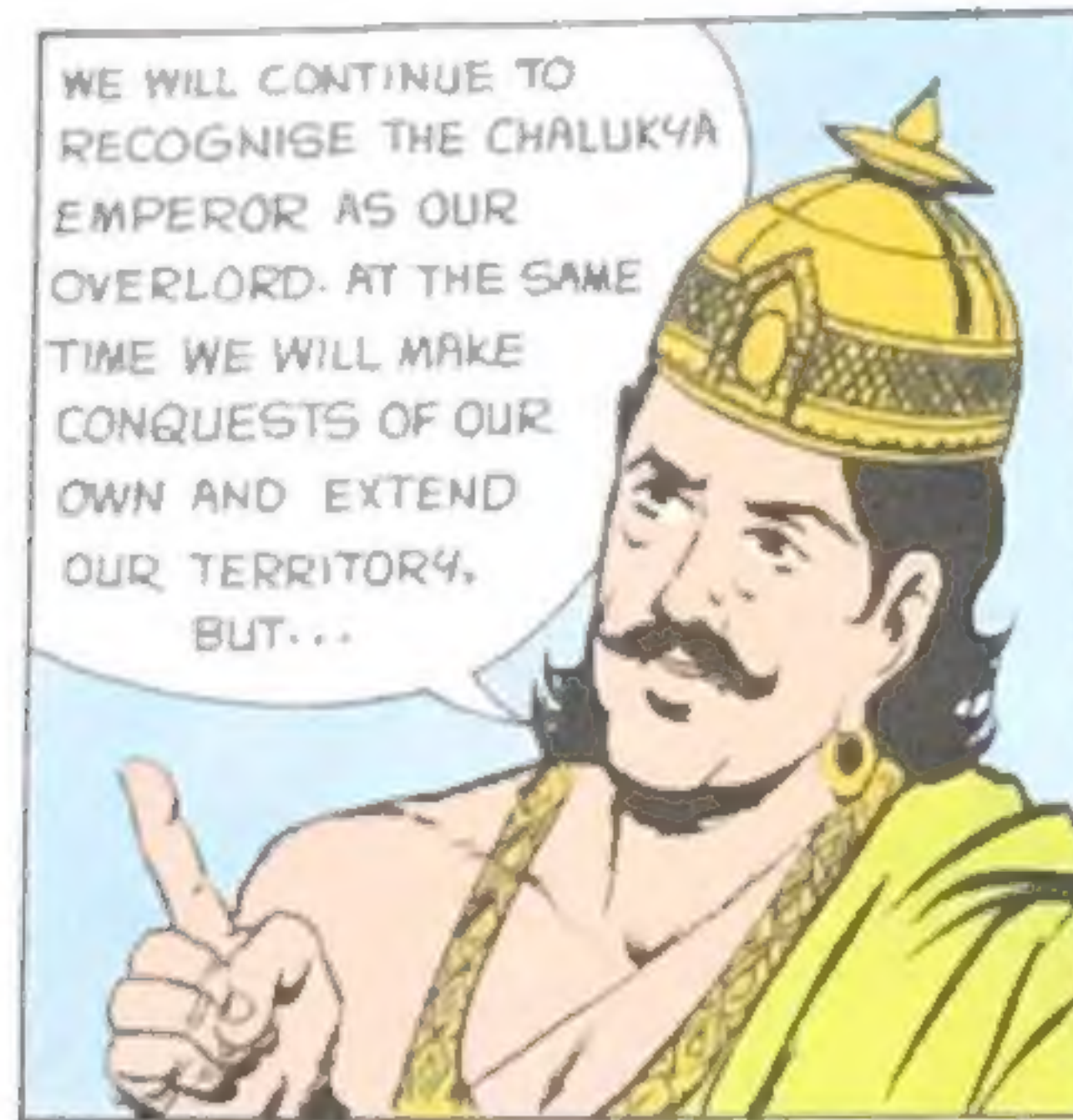
DANTIDURGA MOURNED THE DEATH OF VIKRAMADITYA.



KEERTIVARMAN WHO SUCCEEDED VIKRAMADITYA FAILED TO WIN THE RESPECT OF HIS VASSALS, PROMINENT AMONG THEM BEING DANTIDURGA.







WE WILL CONTINUE TO RECOGNISE THE CHALUKYA EMPEROR AS OUR OVERLORD. AT THE SAME TIME WE WILL MAKE CONQUESTS OF OUR OWN AND EXTEND OUR TERRITORY, BUT...



... BUT NOT AT THE COST OF THE EMPIRE?

YES.



IN PURSUIT OF THIS POLICY DANTIDURGA ADDED TO HIS POSSESSIONS THE GURJARA KINGDOM OF NANDIPURA...

... AND APPOINTED HIS NEPHEW KARKHA HIS REGENT.



YOU SHALL RULE OVER THIS KINGDOM, KARKHA.

WHILE ON HIS WAY BACK AFTER A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN—



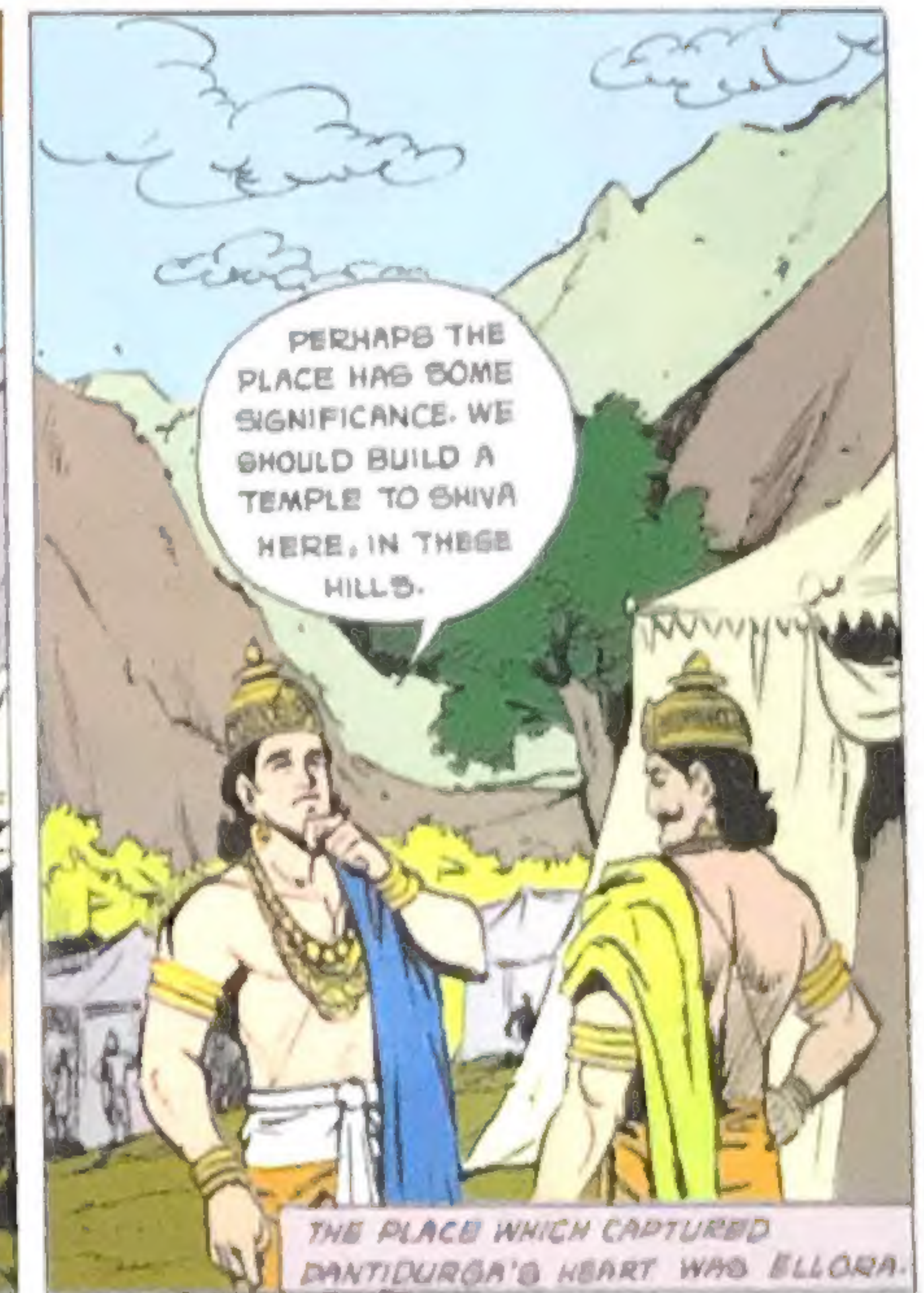
UNCLE, I FEEL STRANGELY ATTRACTED TOWARDS THOSE HILLS.

LET US CAMP THERE TONIGHT.

ROYAL TENTS WERE PITCHED NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS. NEXT MORNING—



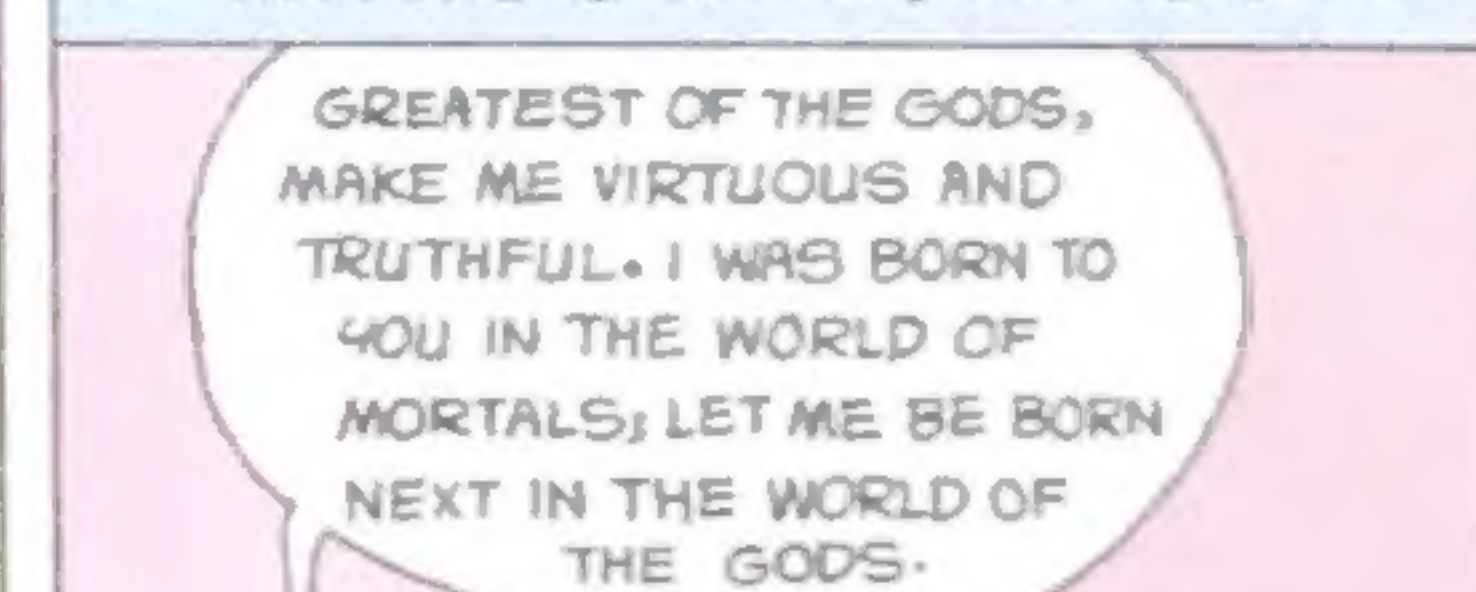
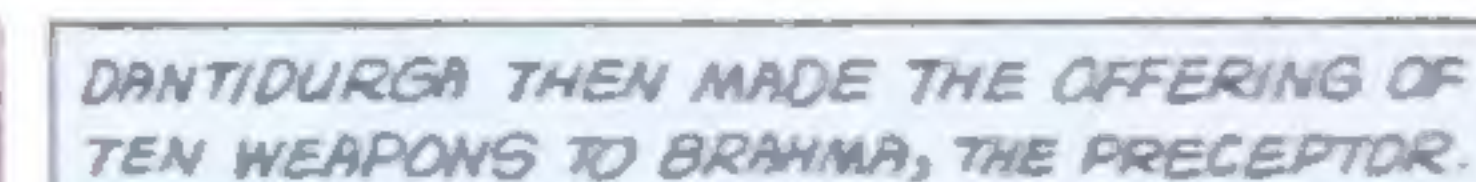
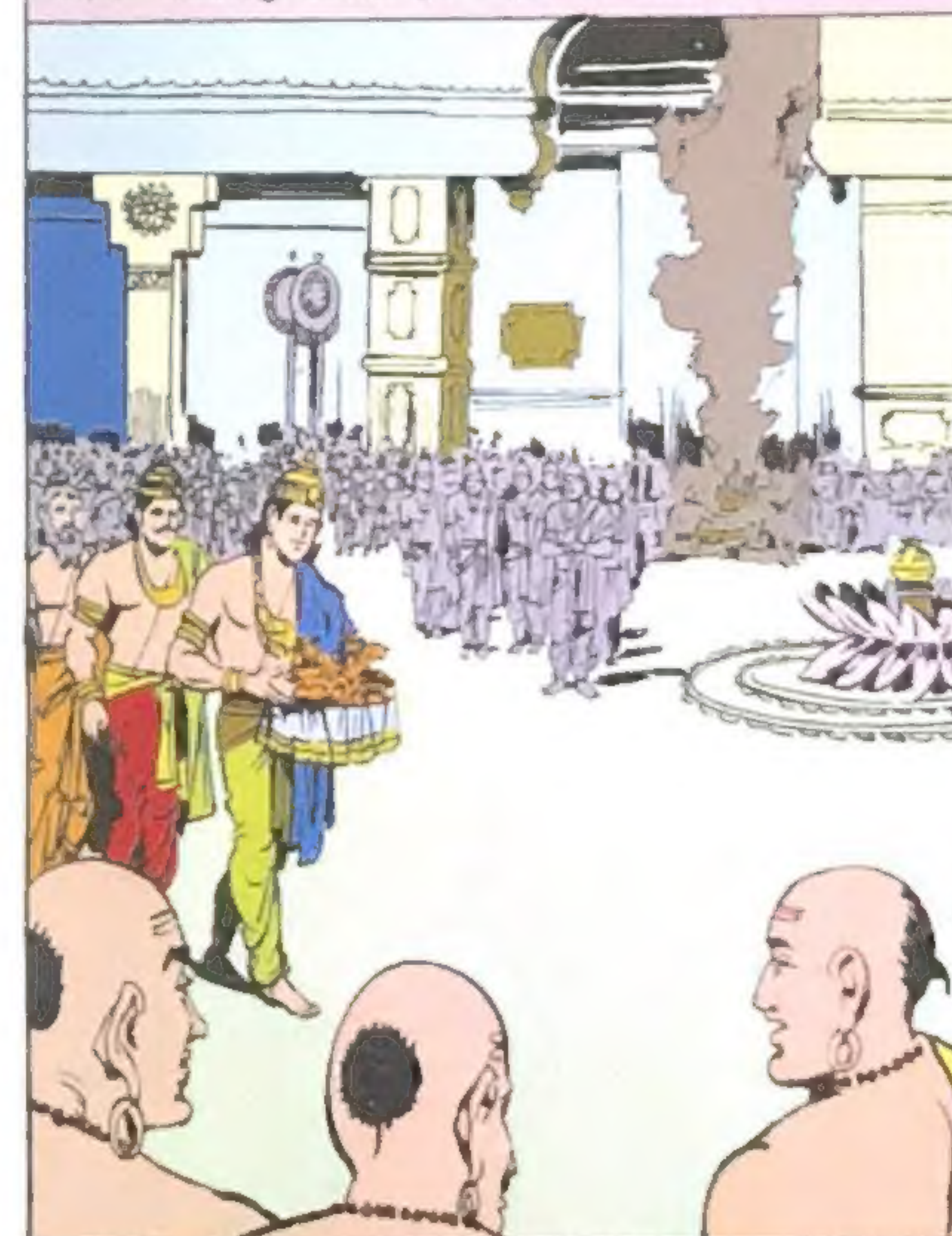
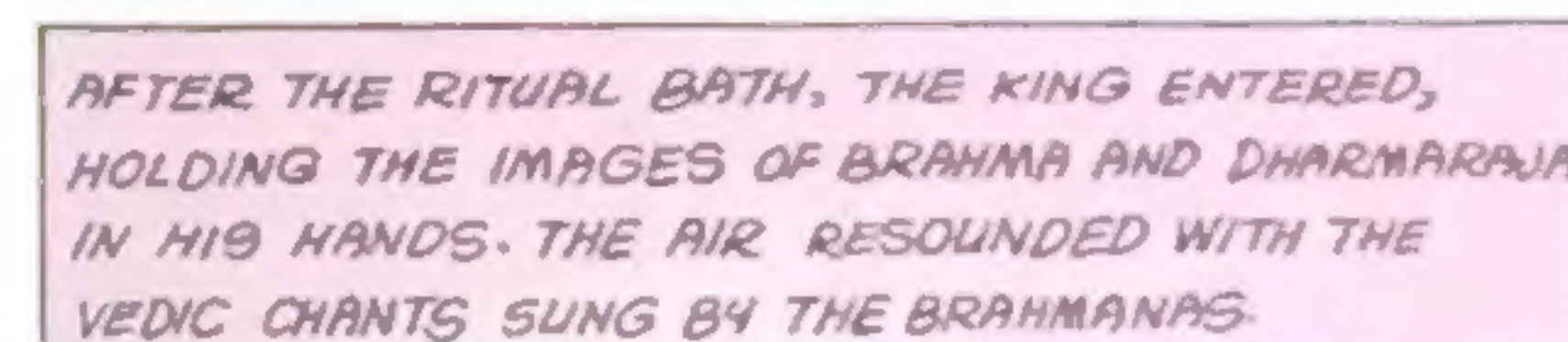
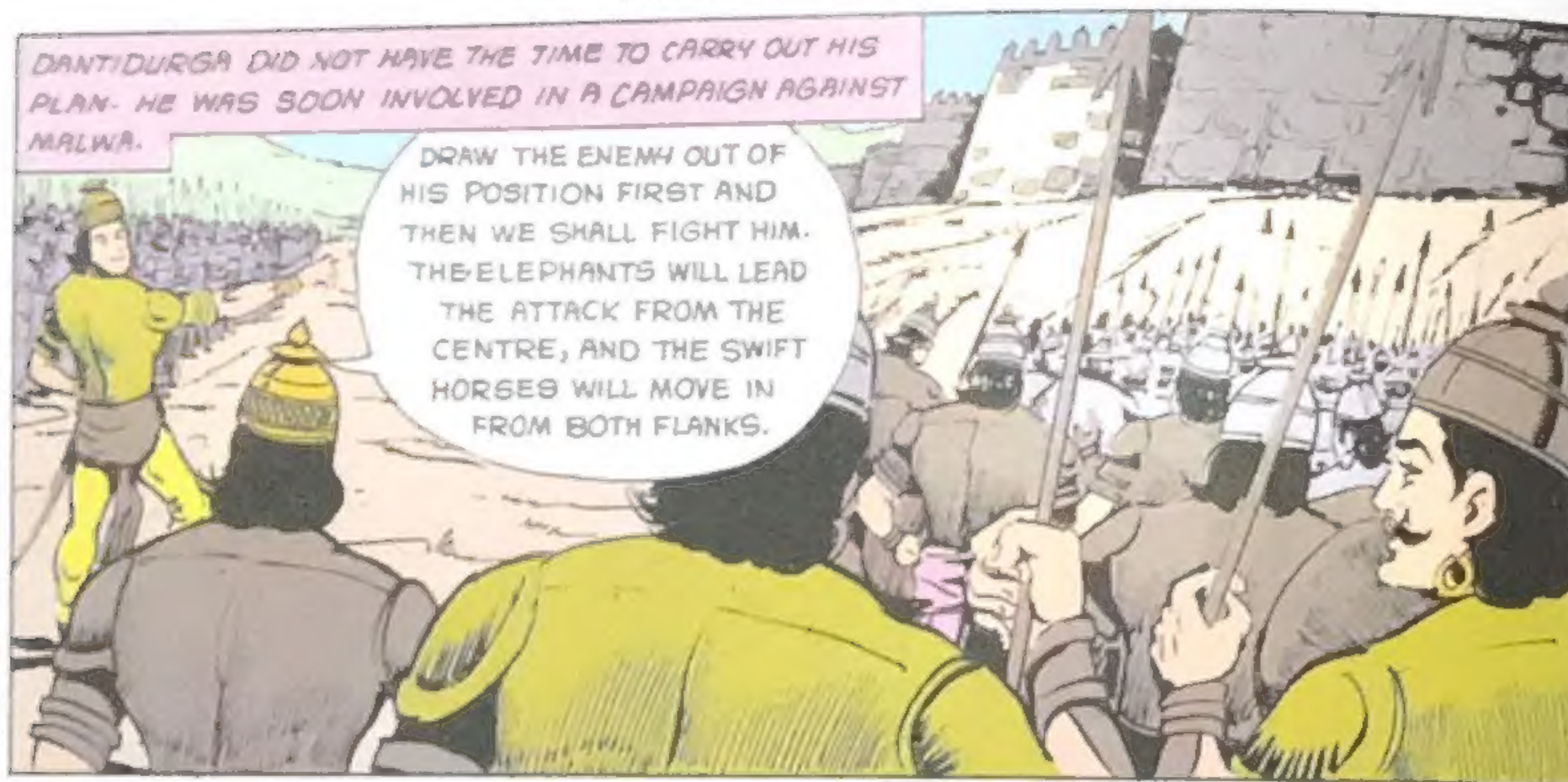
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MAGIC IN THIS PLACE. IT DRAWS ME LIKE A MAGNET.



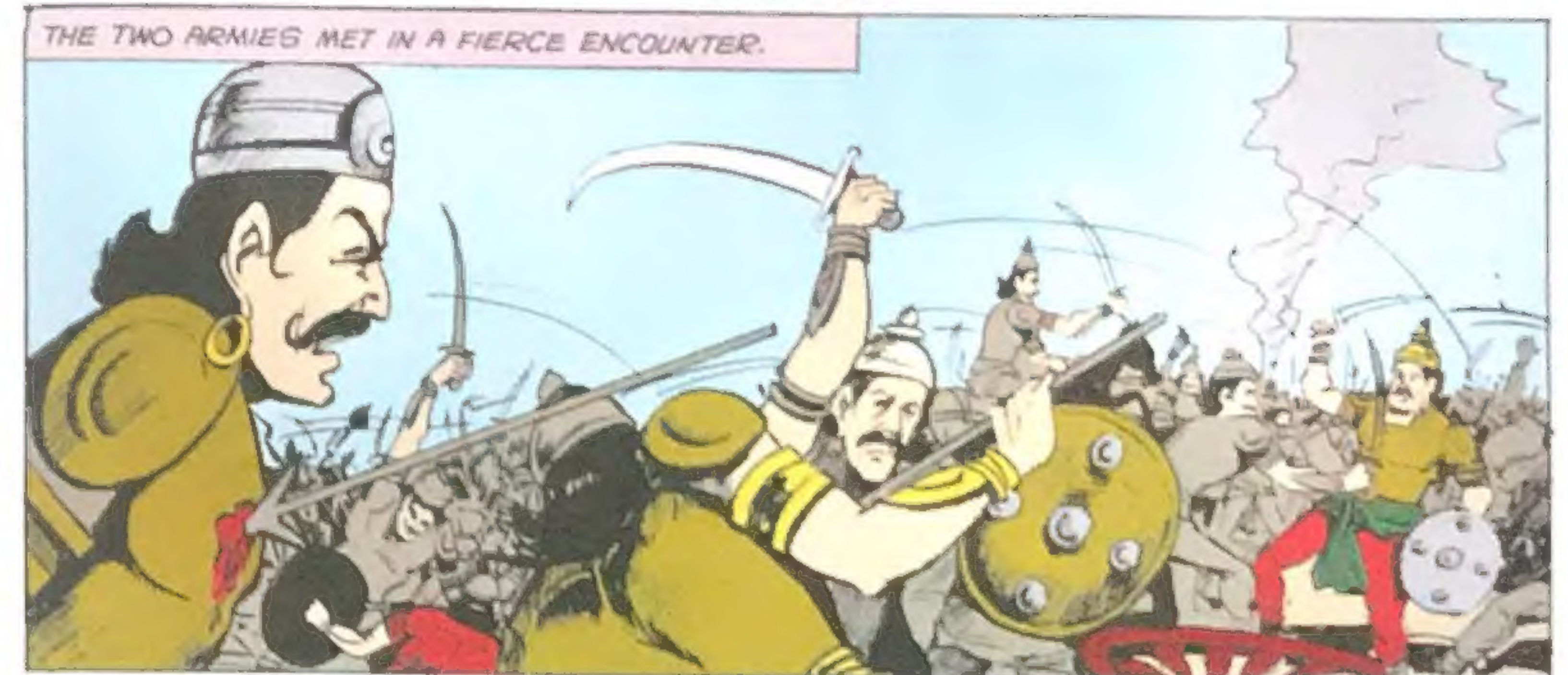
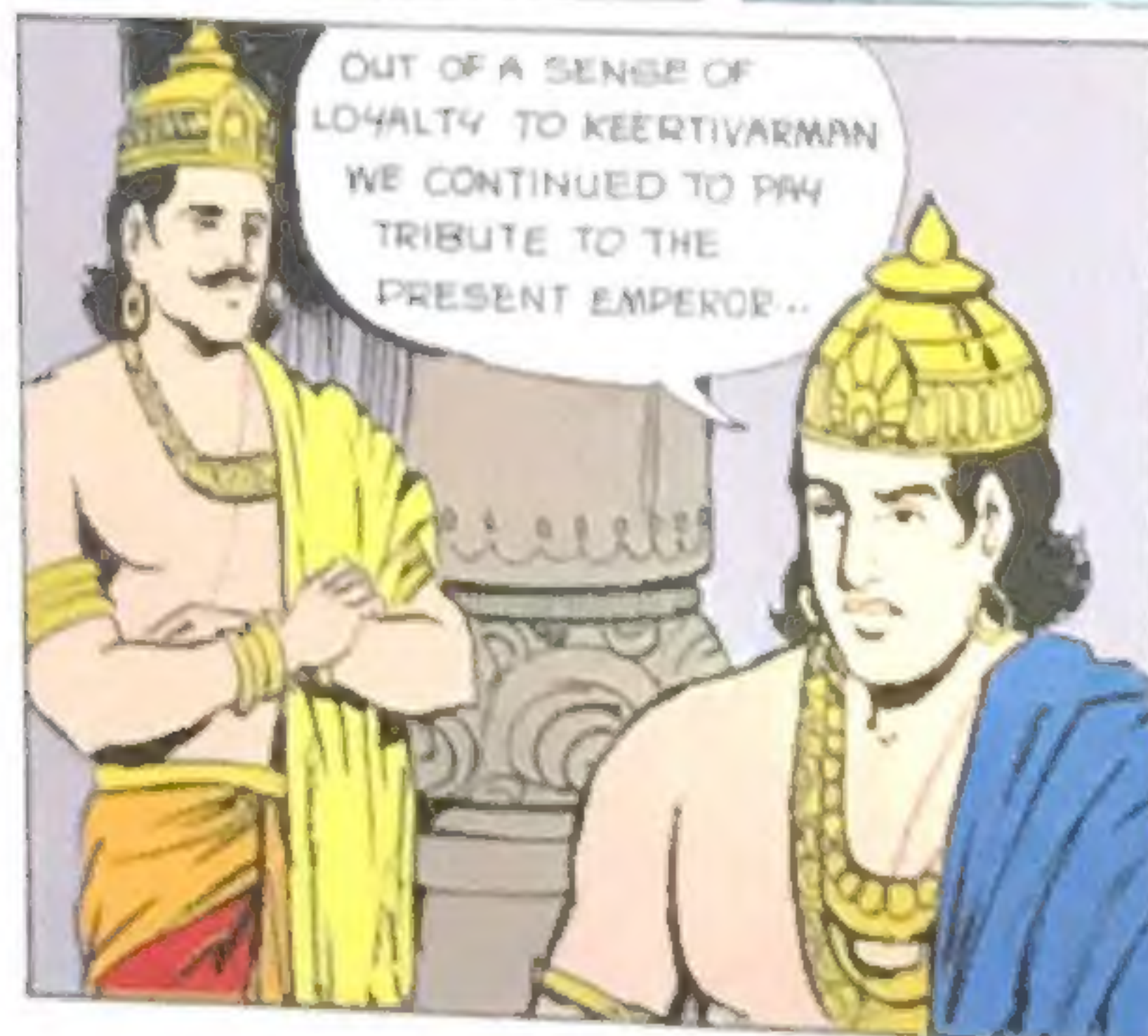
PERHAPS THE PLACE HAS SOME SIGNIFICANCE. WE SHOULD BUILD A TEMPLE TO SHIVA HERE, IN THESE HILLS.

THE PLACE WHICH CAPTURED DANTIDURGA'S HEART WAS ELLORA.

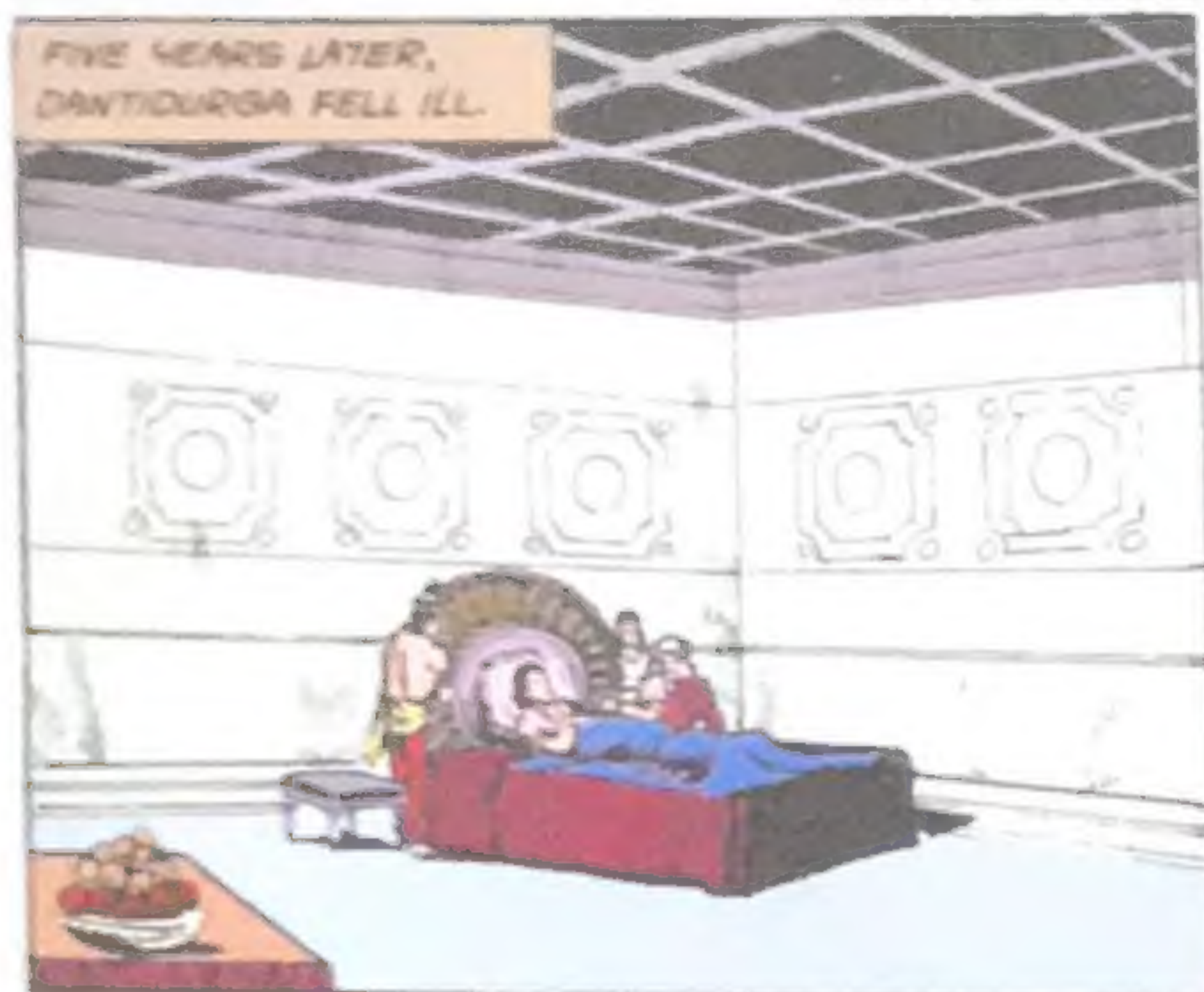




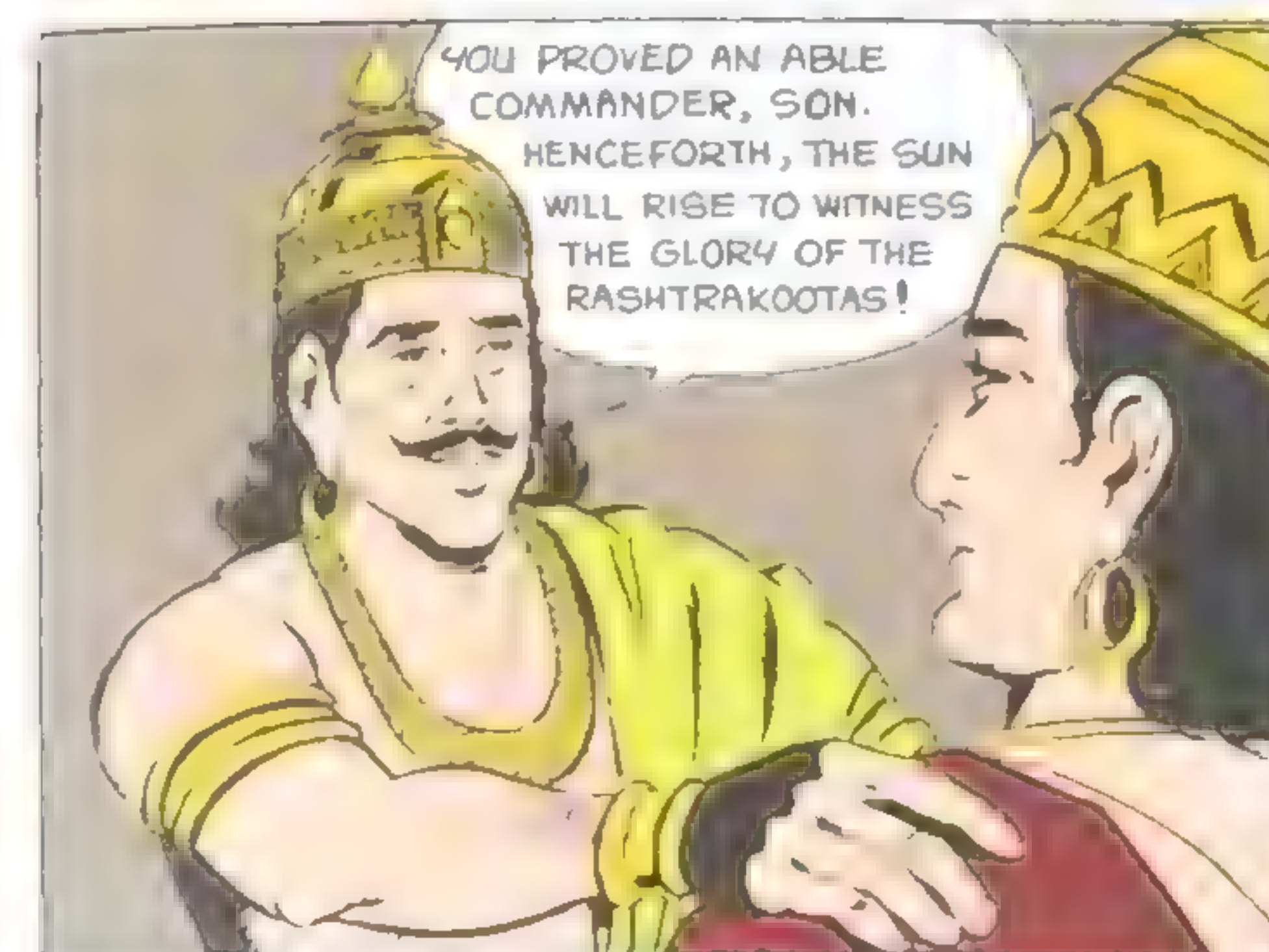
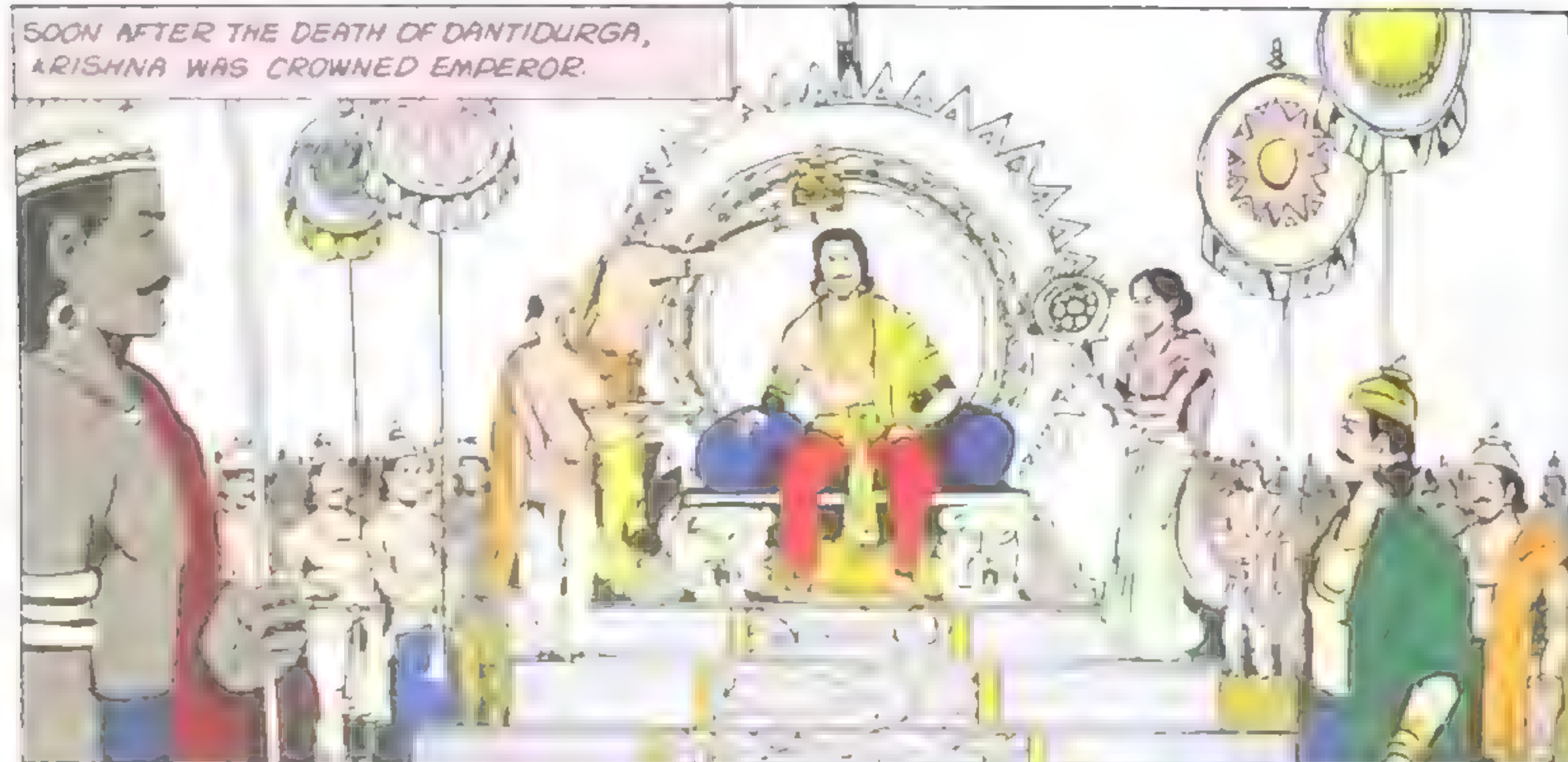






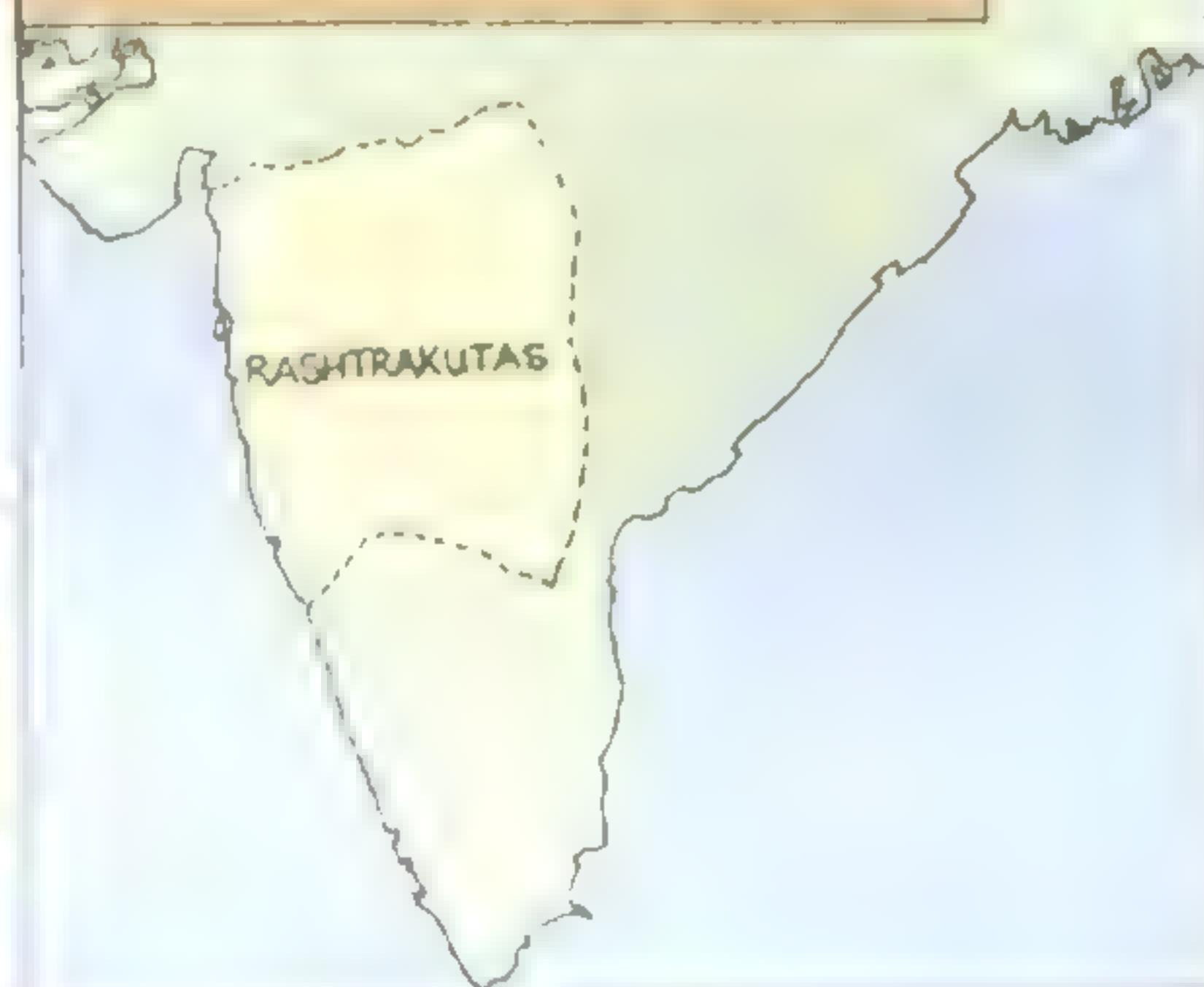






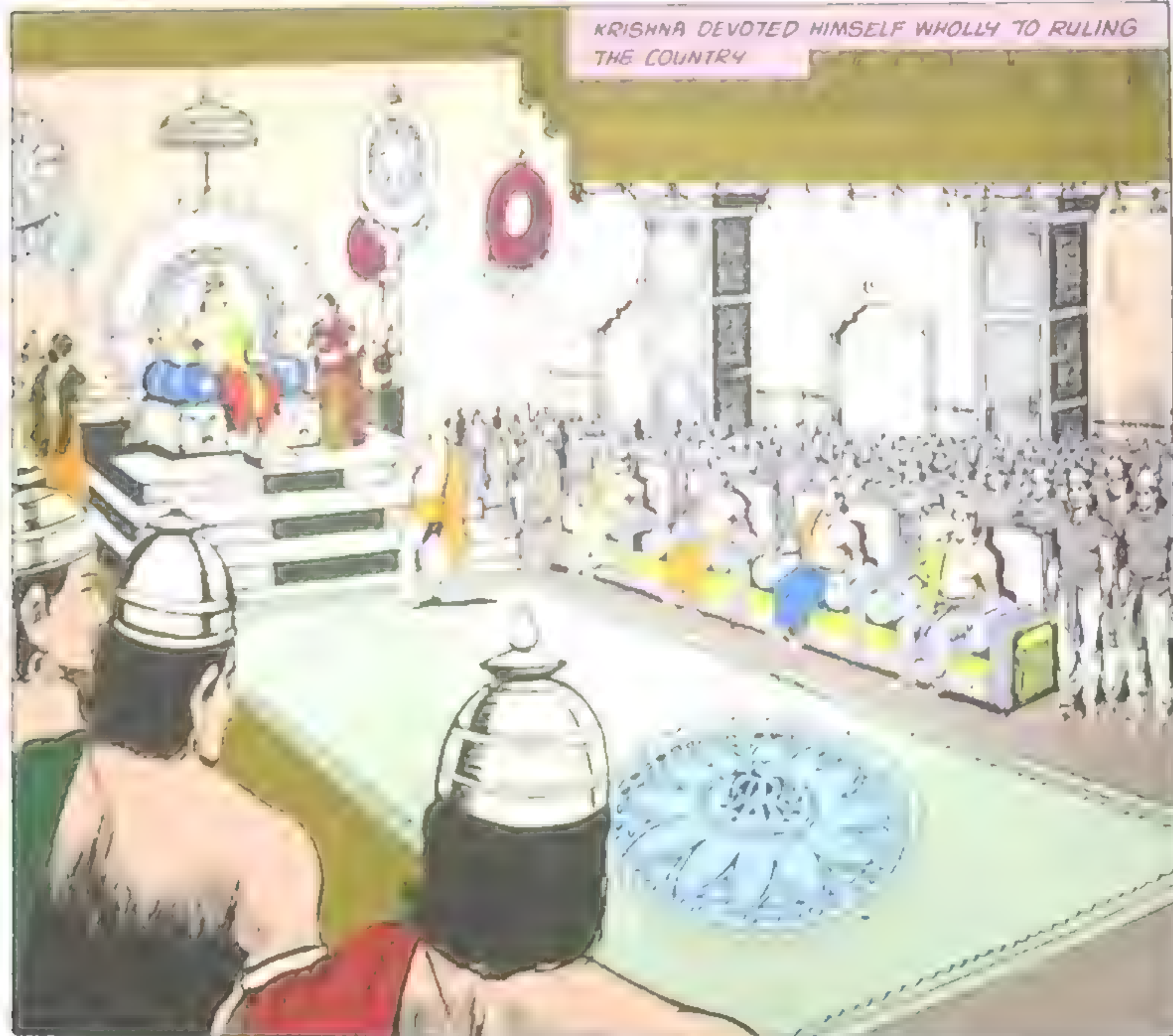


THEIR INFLUENCE STRETCHED OVER THE WHOLE OF CENTRAL INDIA, TO KARNATAKA, THE KONKAN AND ANDHRA.



THE RASHTRAKOOTAS WERE NOW THE GREATEST POWER IN THE LAND.

KRISHNA DEVOTED HIMSELF WHOLLY TO RULING THE COUNTRY



ONE DAY —

YOU SEEM TIRED, HUSBAND

YES, THE AFFAIRS OF STATE ARE VERY TAXING

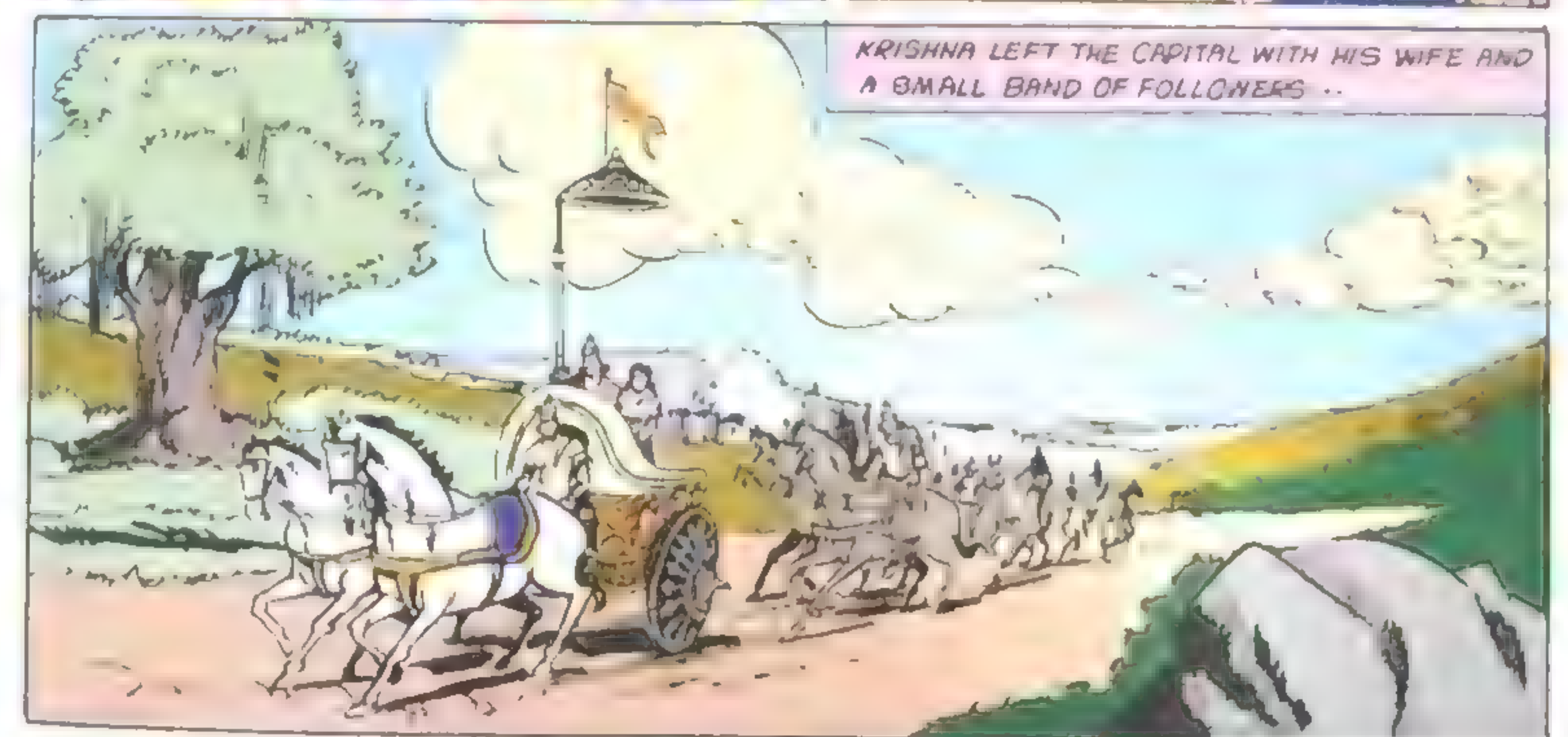


THEN LET US GET AWAY FROM IT FOR A FEW DAYS

YES! AND I KNOW JUST THE PLACE WHERE WE CAN RELAX



KRISHNA LEFT THE CAPITAL WITH HIS WIFE AND A SMALL BAND OF FOLLOWERS —



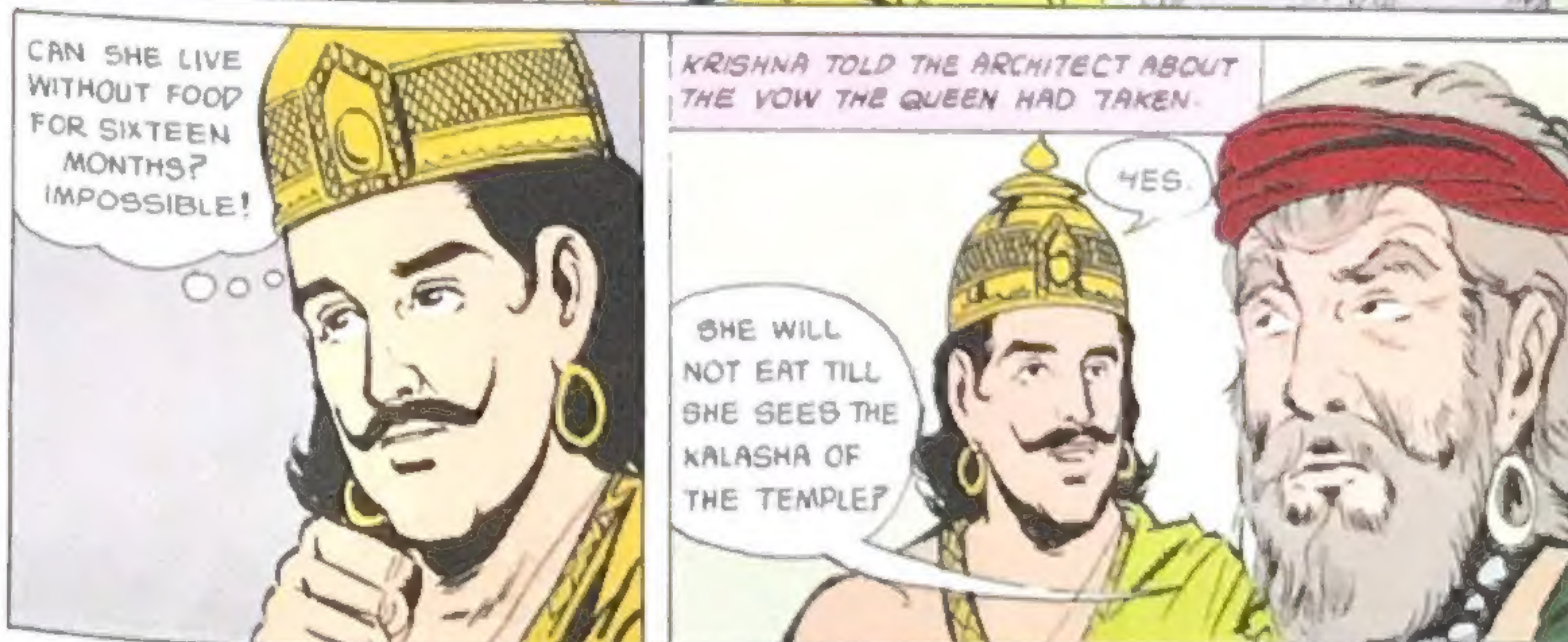
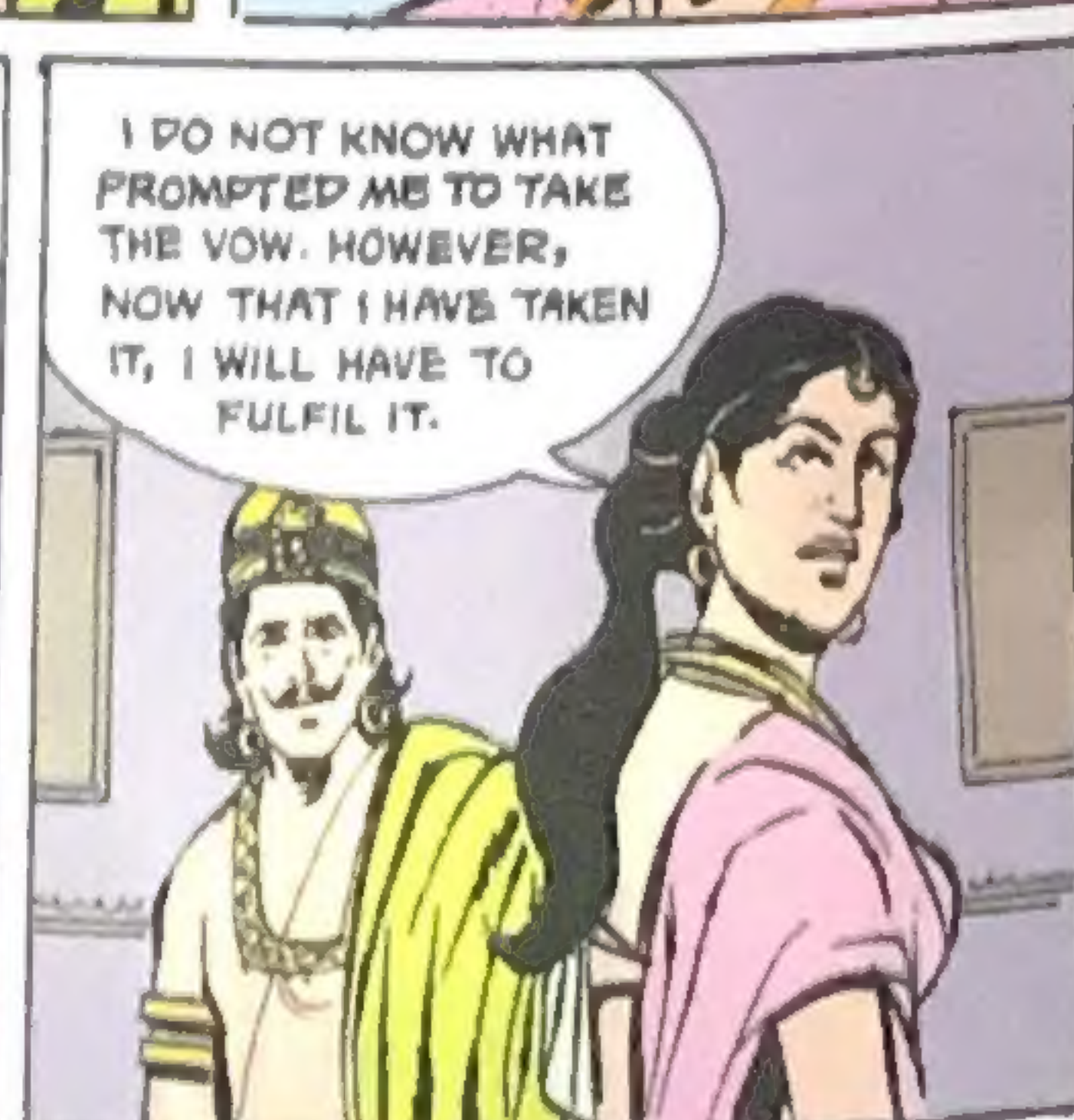
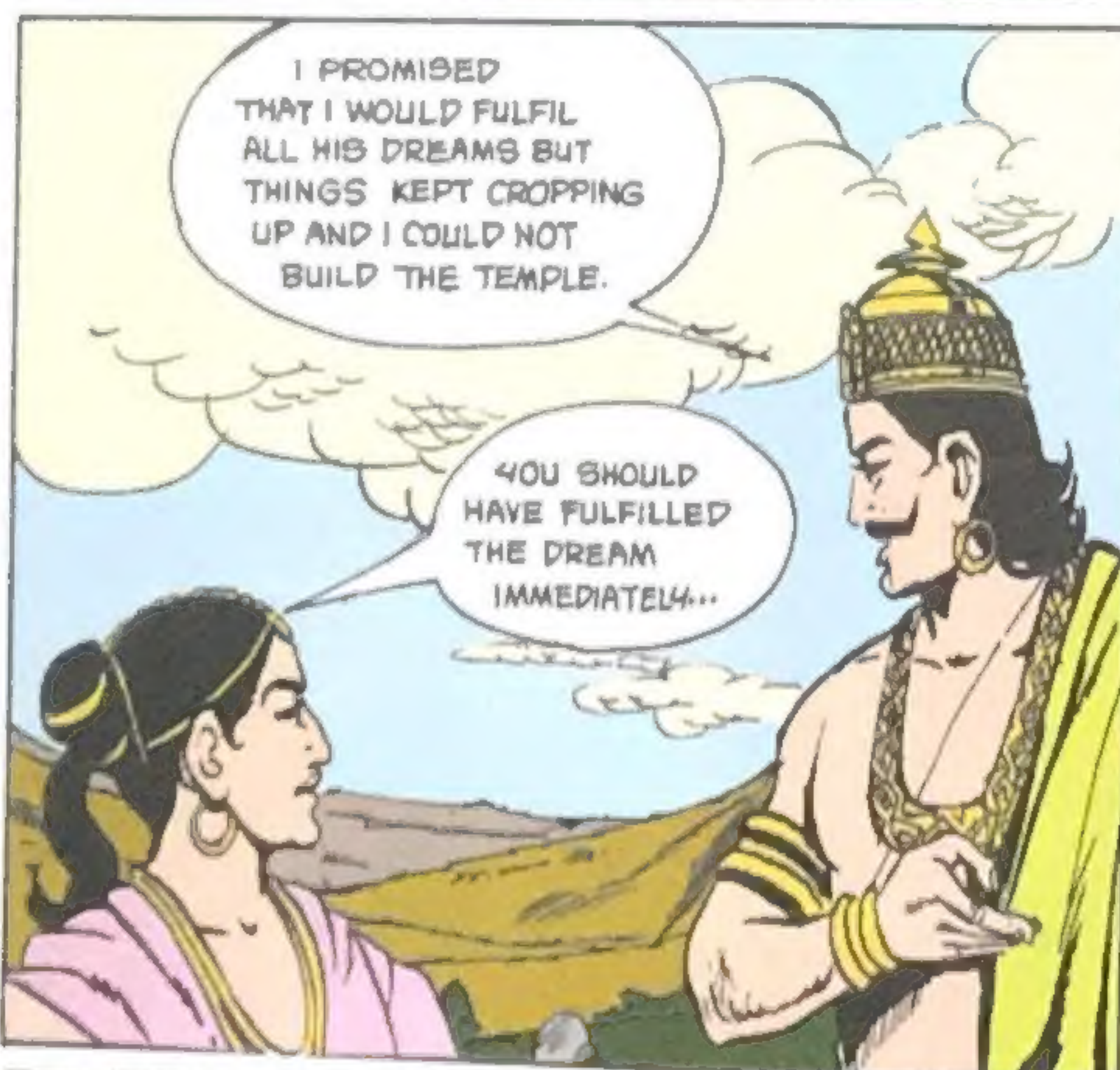
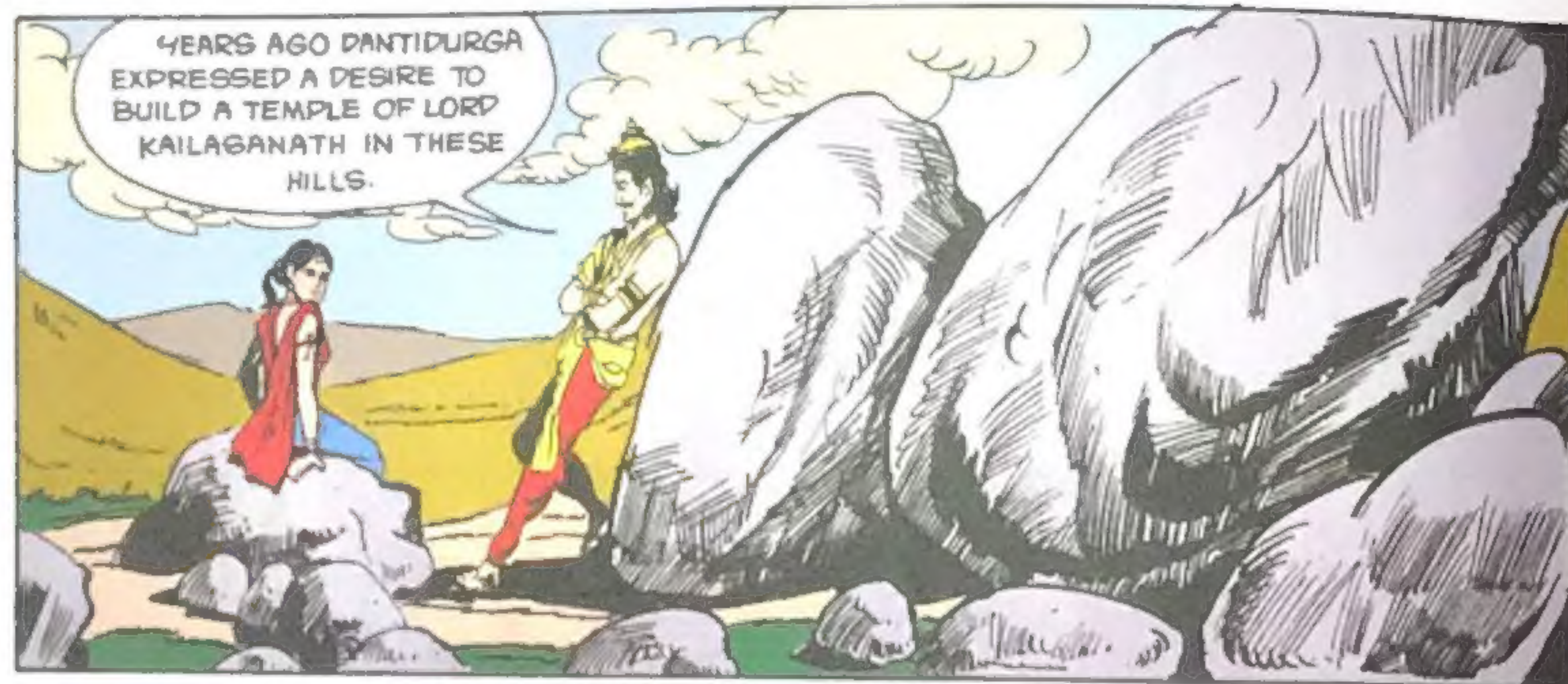
AND CAME TO ELLORA —

WHAT A SERENE PLACE THIS IS!

YES! I TOO FEEL SO

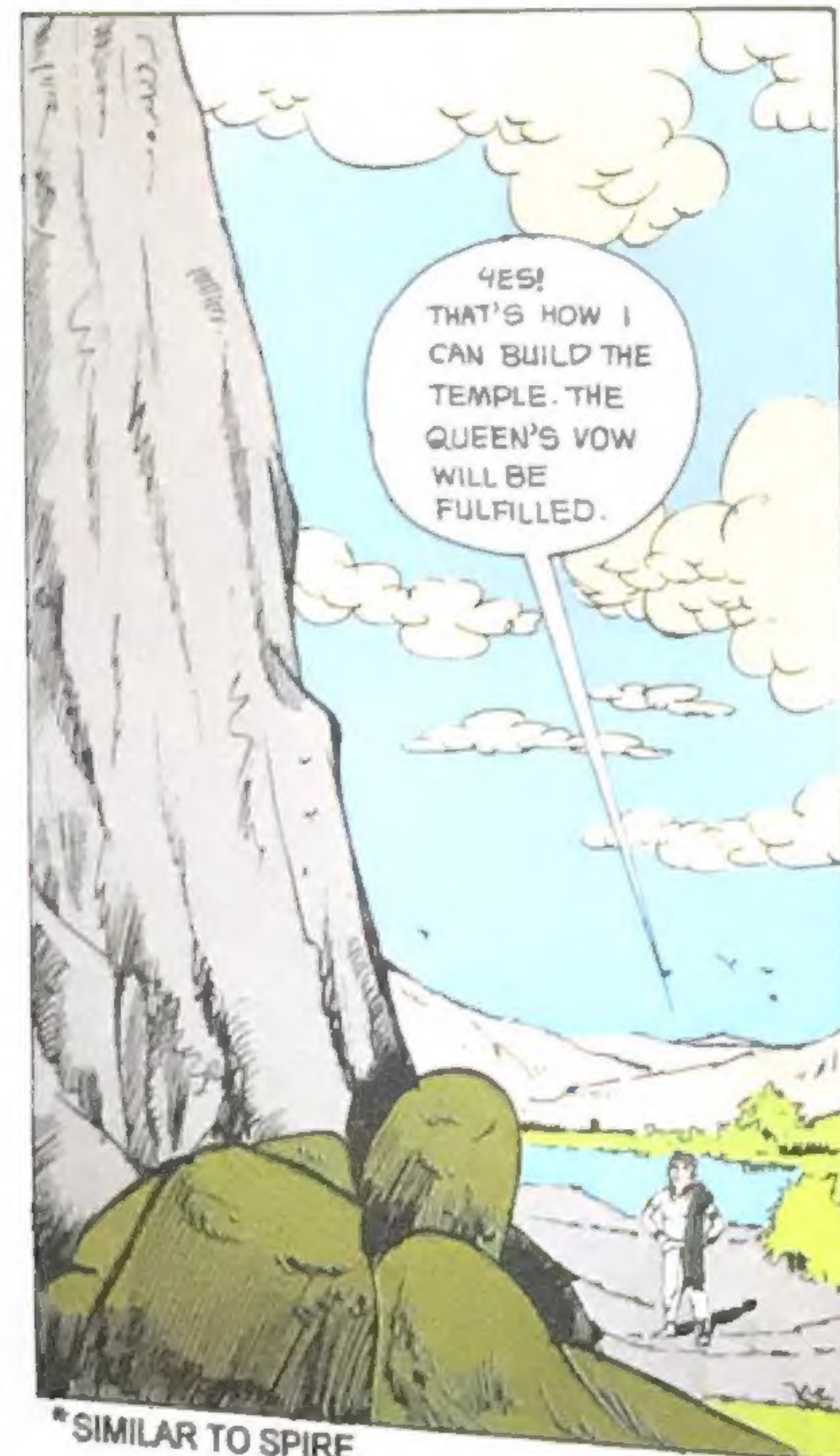






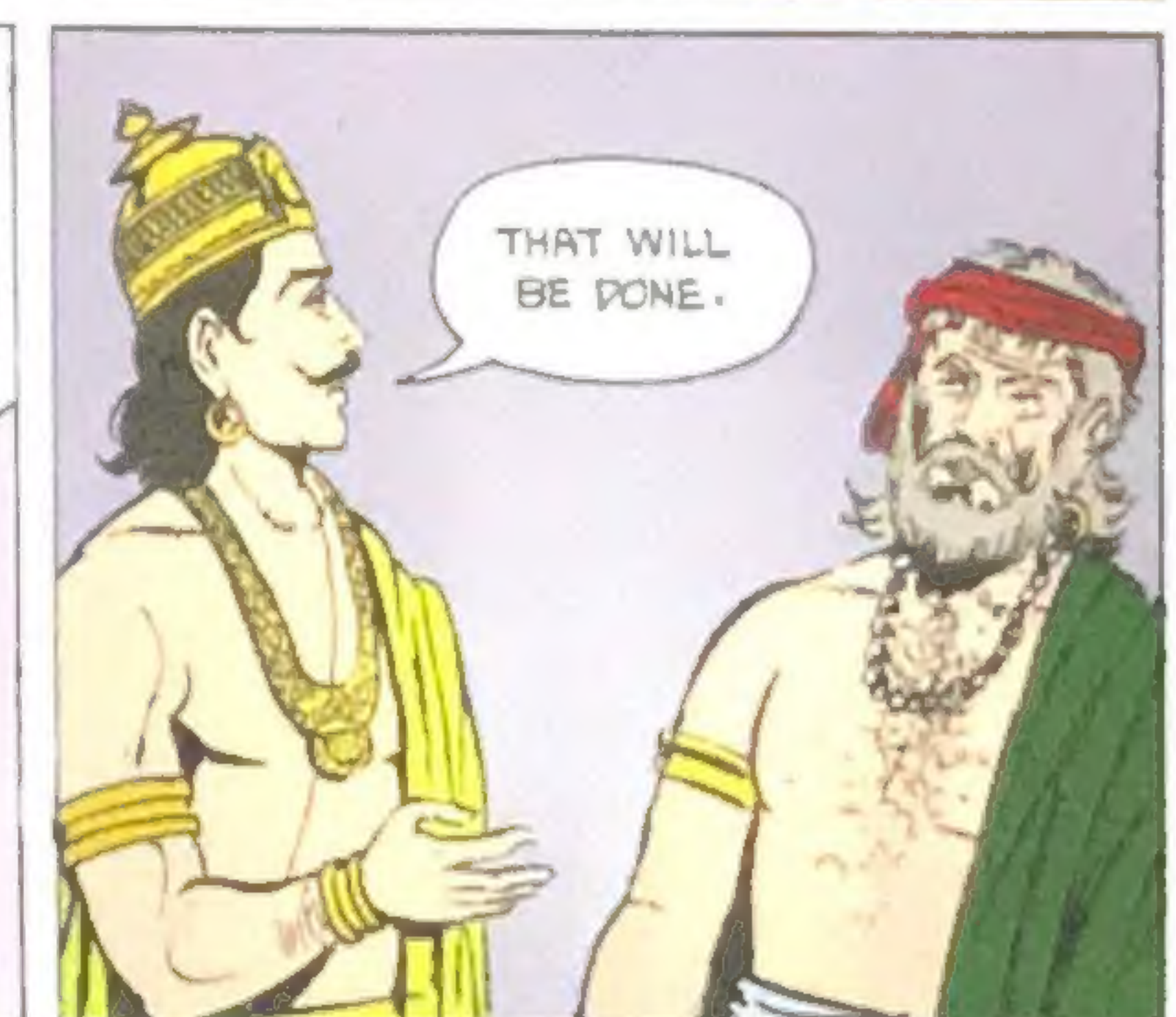
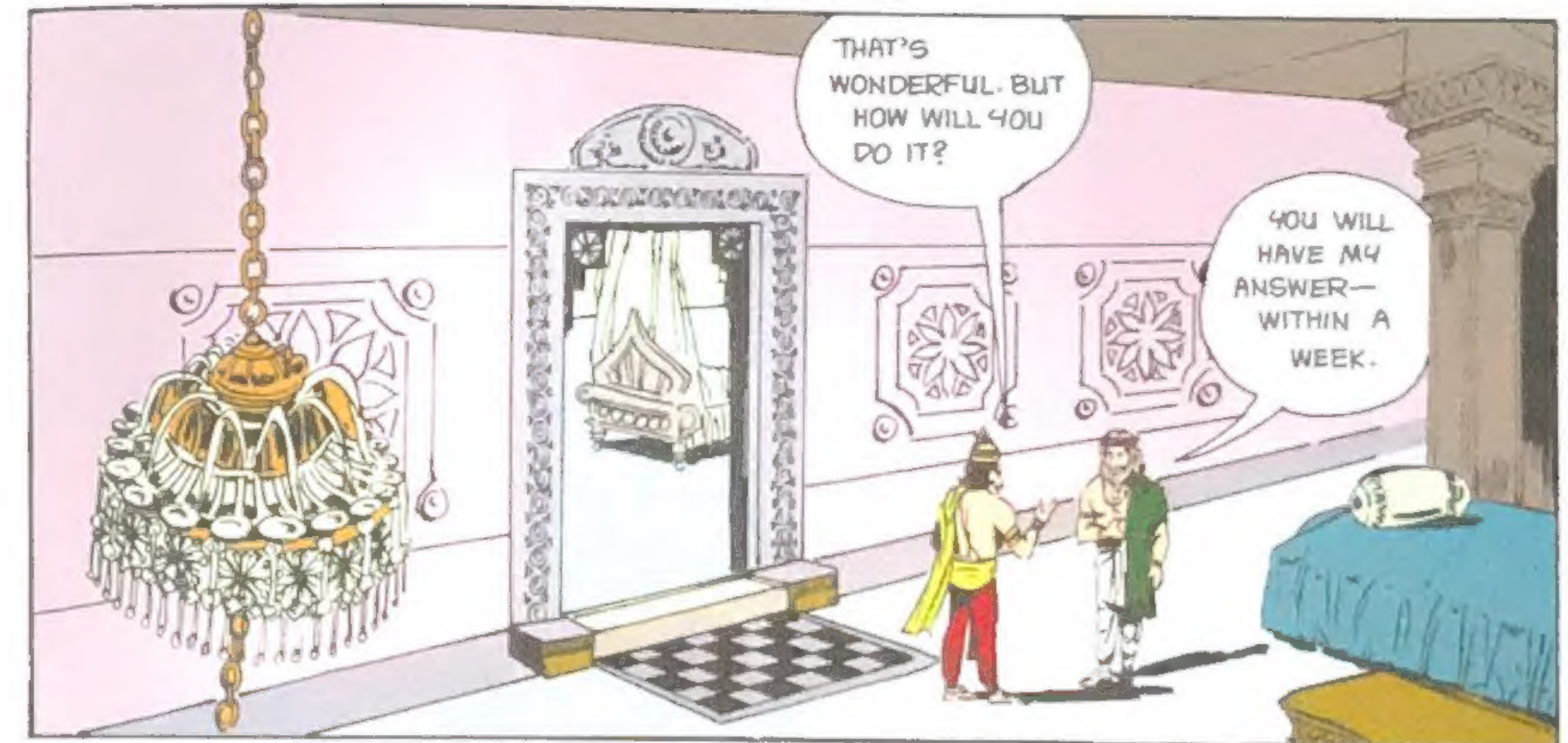


KOKKAS WENT TO THE SITE WHERE THE TEMPLE WAS TO BE BUILT AND STUDIED THE ROCK FORMATIONS.



\*SIMILAR TO SPIRE

AS THE KING ANXIOUSLY WAITED FOR THE SCULPTOR THE NEXT DAY—



ON THE EIGHTH DAY—



\*ABOUT 3.5K.M.



ON THE TOP OF THE HILLOCK WAS A BEAUTIFULLY CARVED KALASHA AND AN ORANGE-COLOURED FLAG FLUTTERED IN THE BREEZE.

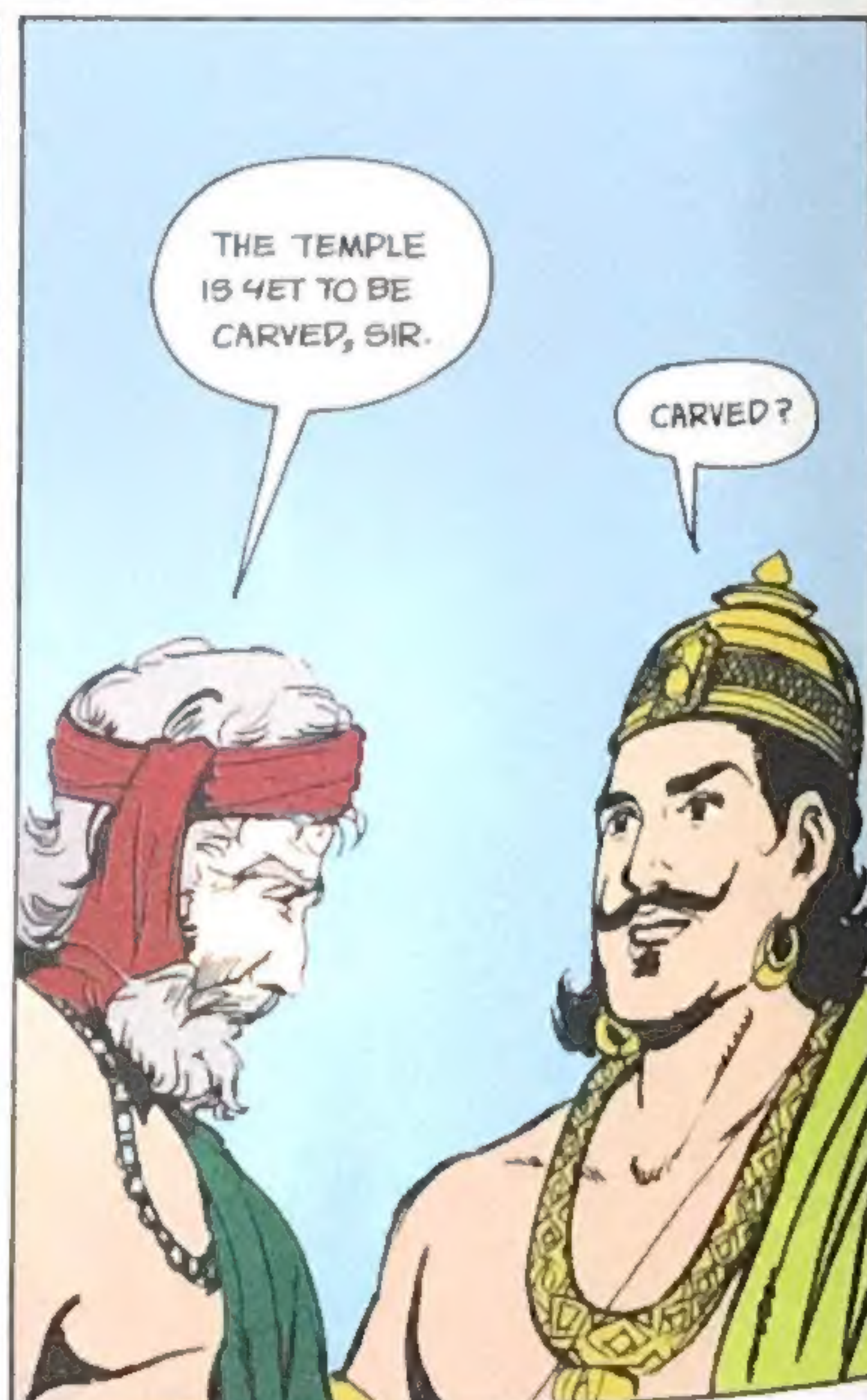
THERE IS THE KALASHA, YOUR MAJESTY.



THE VOW IS FULFILLED, TRUE, BUT IT IS A TRICK! WHERE IS THE TEMPLE?

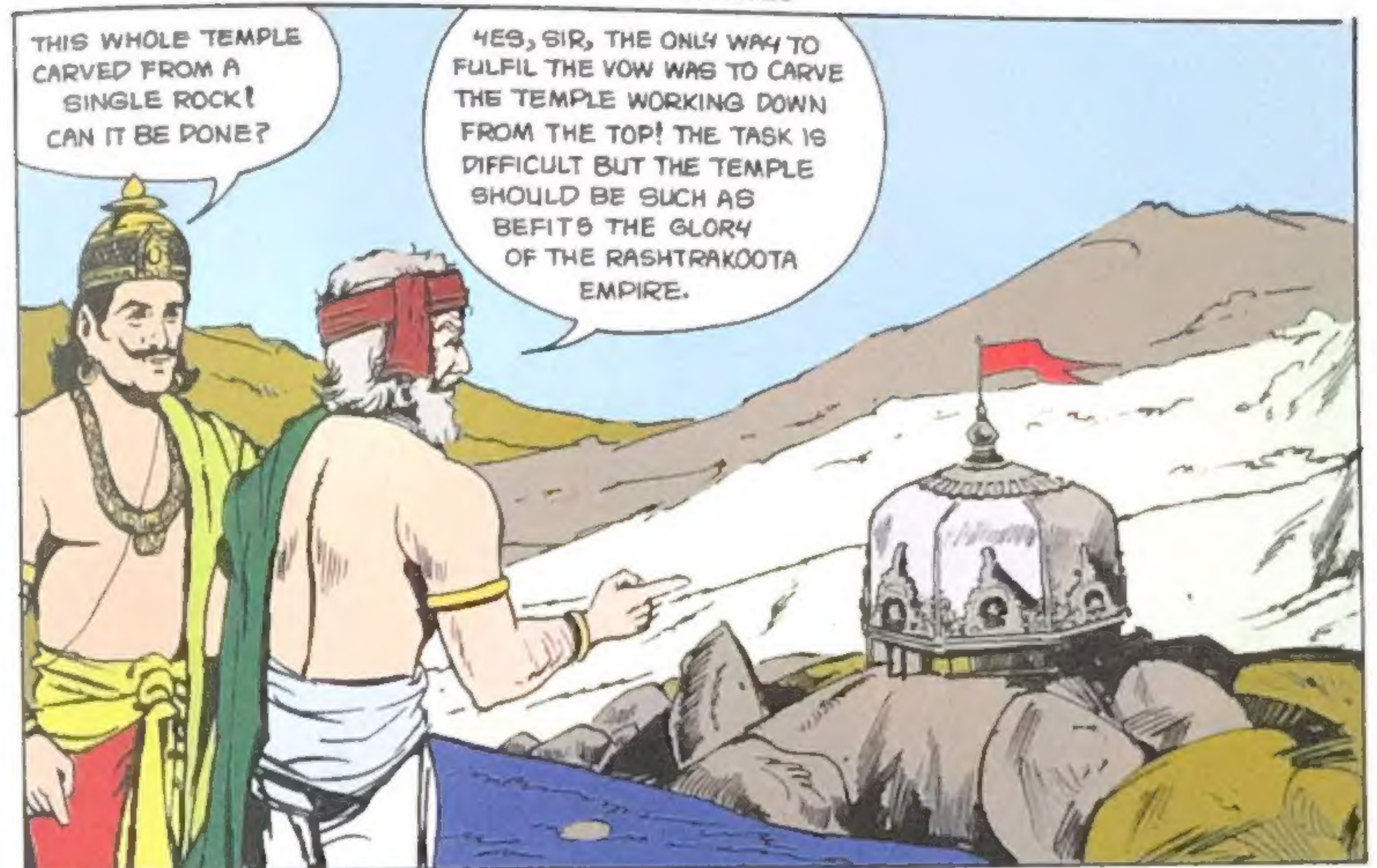
THE TEMPLE IS YET TO BE CARVED, SIR.

CARVED?

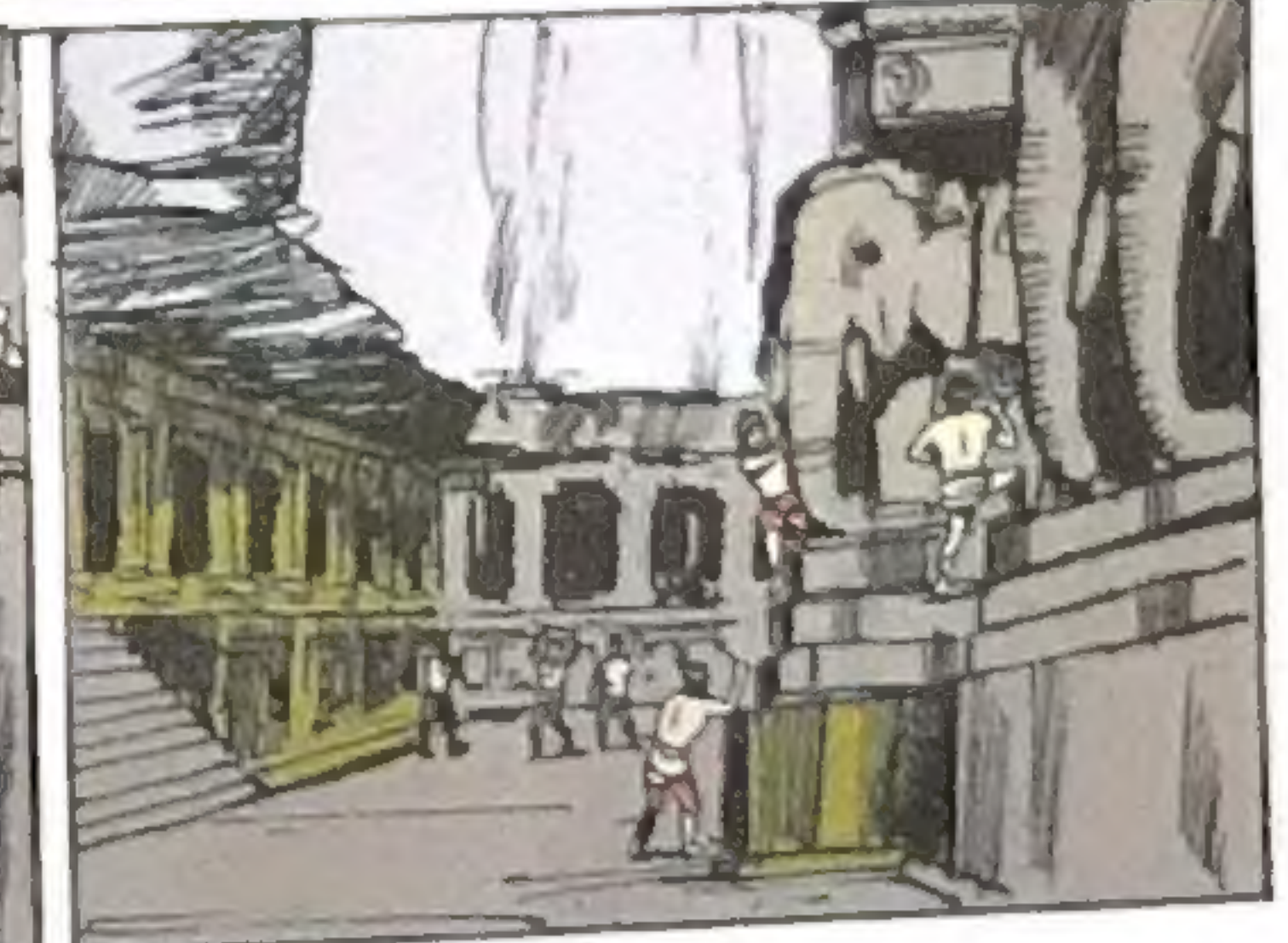
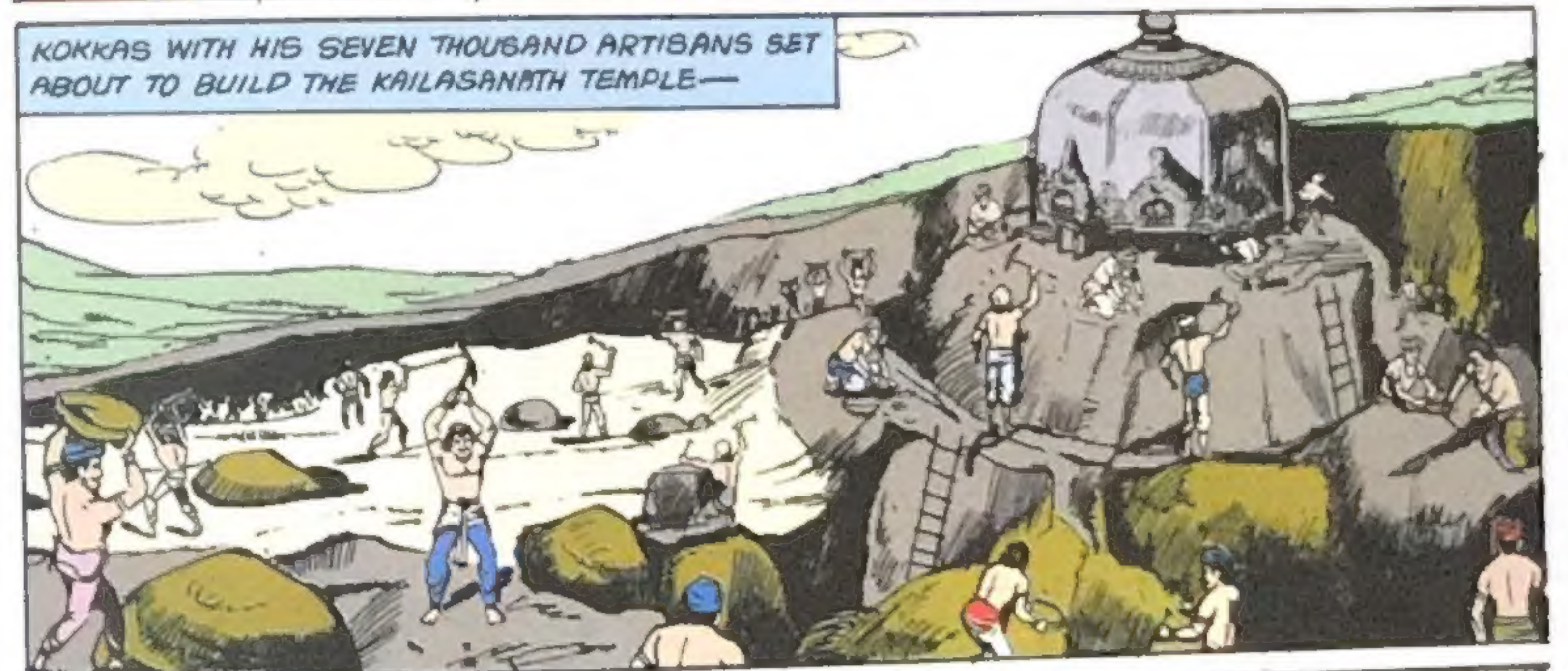


THIS WHOLE TEMPLE CARVED FROM A SINGLE ROCK! CAN IT BE DONE?

YES, SIR, THE ONLY WAY TO FULFIL THE VOW WAS TO CARVE THE TEMPLE WORKING DOWN FROM THE TOP! THE TASK IS DIFFICULT BUT THE TEMPLE SHOULD BE SUCH AS BEFITS THE GLORY OF THE RASHTRAKOOTA EMPIRE.



KOKKAS WITH HIS SEVEN THOUSAND ARTISANS SET ABOUT TO BUILD THE KAILASANATH TEMPLE—

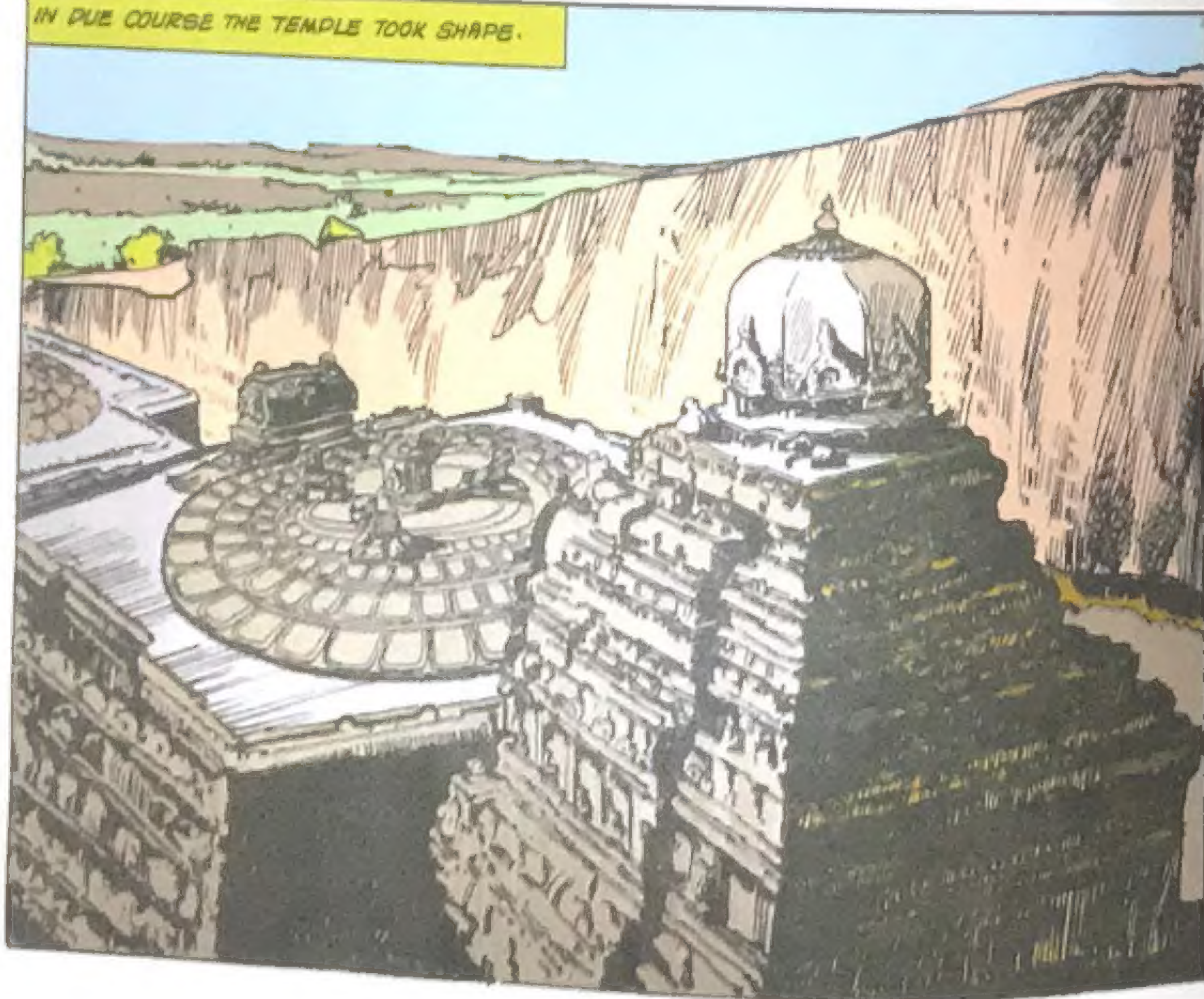




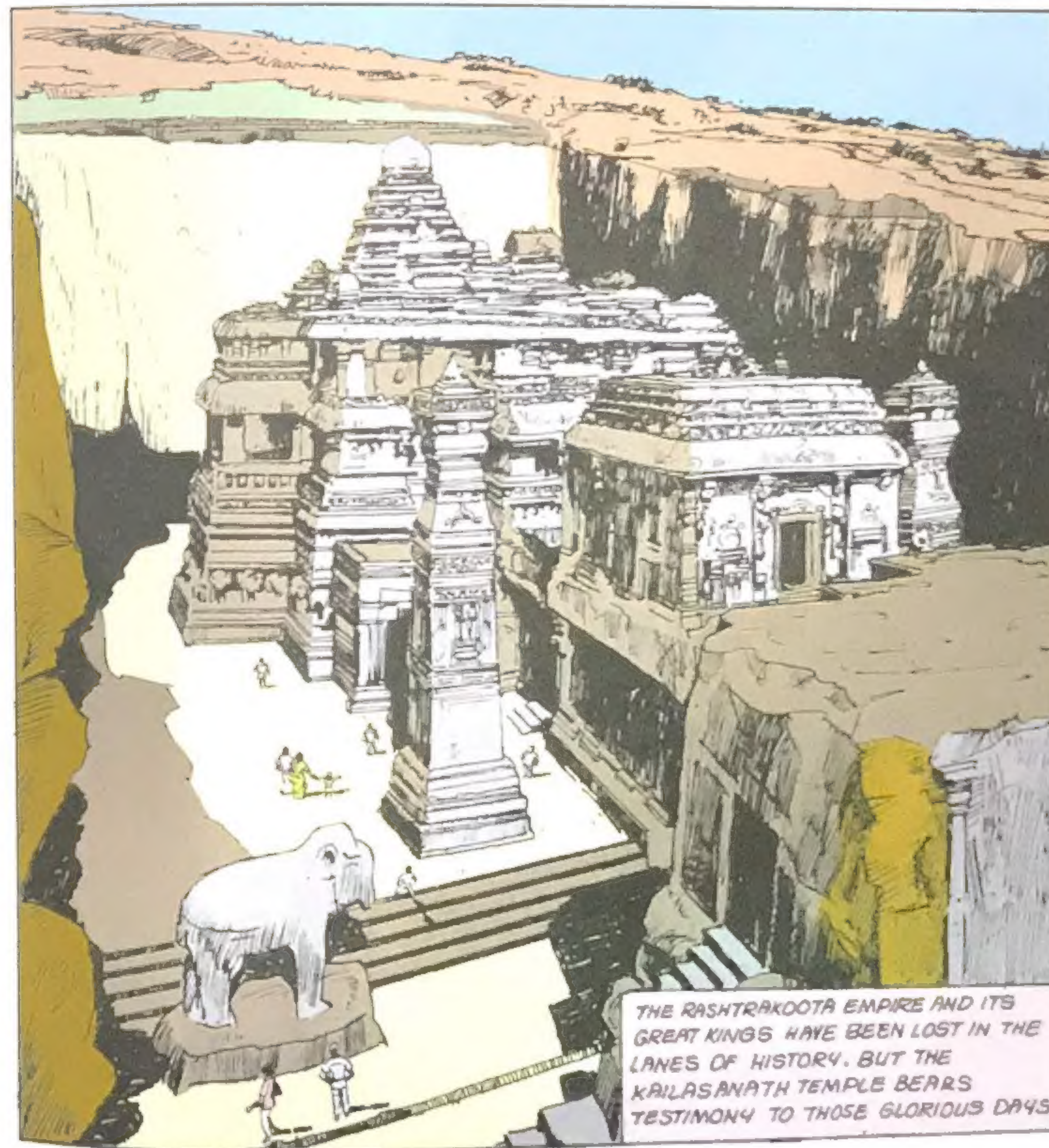
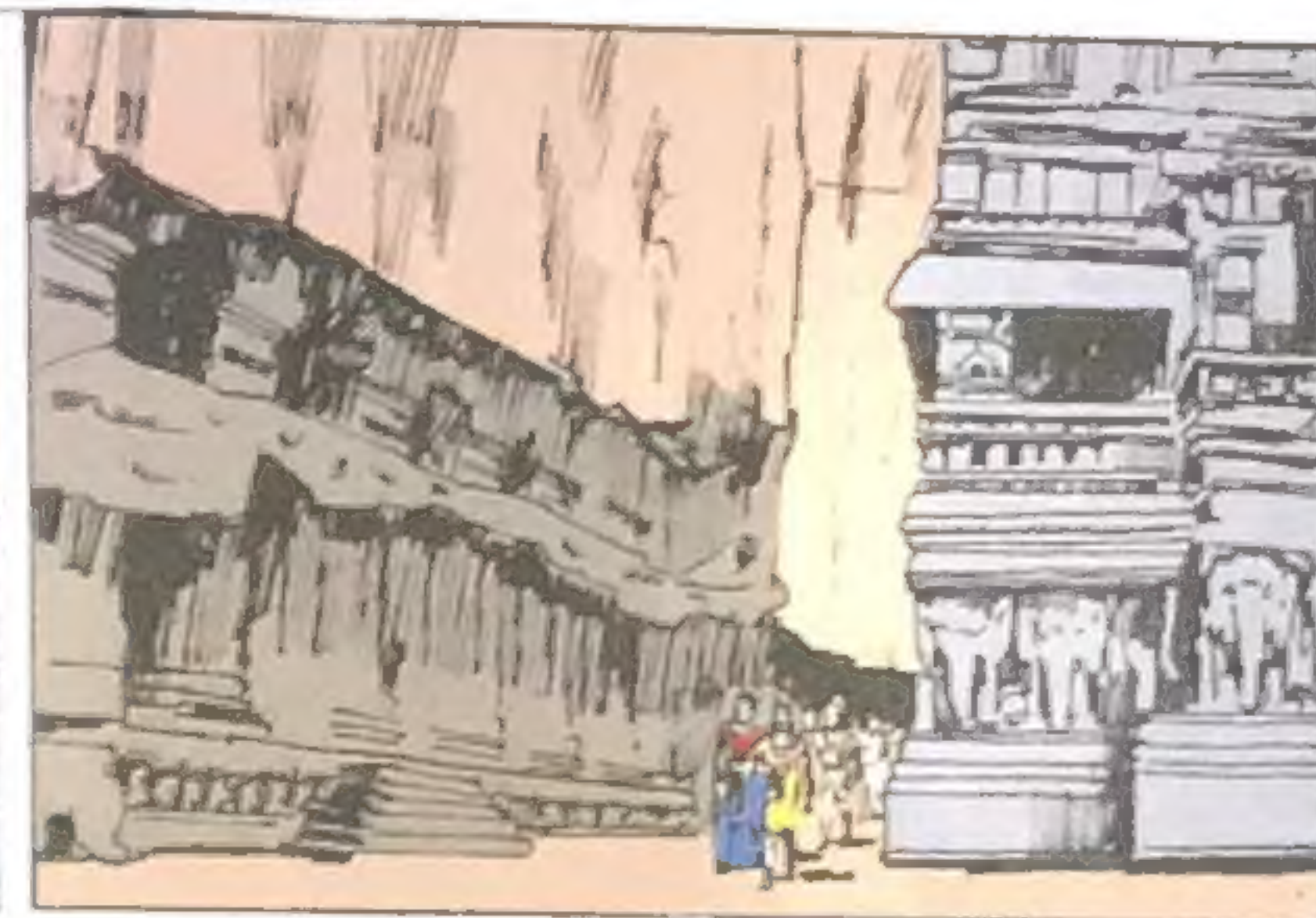
THE KING CAME FREQUENTLY TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK —



IN DUE COURSE THE TEMPLE TOOK SHAPE.



THE CONSECRATION OF THE TEMPLE WAS PERFORMED WITH APPROPRIATE RITES.



THE RASHTRAKOOTA EMPIRE AND ITS GREAT KINGS HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE LANES OF HISTORY. BUT THE KAILASANATH TEMPLE BEARS TESTIMONY TO THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS.